

**FROM COVENT GARDEN TO WAITING TABLE**  
The manager now taking the orders  
THE EYE

**THE GREATEST MUSICAL EVER**  
The man behind the West End revival of Show Boat  
ARTS, PAGE 13

**PREMIER LEAGUE OF MEMOIRS**  
Sniping, score-settling and drama in confessions from Number 10  
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**DRESSING FOR THAT AFTER WORK DATE**  
Men are finally making the effort  
CITY+

# INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 29 April 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,597

## Today's news

### Couple held over beating

A COUPLE were being questioned by police last night after a 12-year-old boy suffering from scores of injuries was discovered tied to a bannister during a police raid on a house in Poole, Dorset. The youngster had suffered violent beatings and was left with a fractured skull, wrists and ankle injuries and a dislocated jaw. **Page 2**

### Patten praises Ulster deal

THE former Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, rejected suggestions that he was taking on a "poisoned chalice" by becoming chairman of the commission which would review policing in Ulster. He said: "Other people in Northern Ireland and the British government and the Irish government have been extremely brave in reaching this agreement. I think anybody who believes in a free, prosperous, democratic future in Northern Ireland should do what they can to assist." **Page 4**

### Life without work

UNLESS the education system undergoes immediate and revolutionary change, "millions" of Britons will be condemned to a life without work. The Government and business are showing a "worrying lack of understanding about the pace and extent of change", according to one of the country's foremost independent think-tanks. **Page 8**

### Campbell's sick rag

A SCATHING attack on "the vomit" of the *Daily Telegraph* has been delivered by the Prime Minister's official spokesman, Alastair Campbell. His antipathy towards the right-wing broadsheet has been prompted by its negative coverage of the Northern Ireland peace process - even after the Good Friday agreement was struck. **Page 6**

### Paedophiles refused

AT least one in ten probation hostels are refusing to accept sex offenders because of fears of vigilante attacks, it was revealed yesterday. A government inspector warned that it may soon become impossible to find supervised places for potentially dangerous criminals, including paedophiles, because of the recent violent demonstrations. **Page 2**

### Lawyers cash in

A "TOP 40" list of the barristers and firms of solicitors that earn the most from legal aid work reveals that some lawyers can make more than £500,000 a year, while one company was paid £8.5m. The statistics from the Lord Chancellor's Department were criticised yesterday by the Bar Council as misleading and inaccurate. **Page 3**

## Business news

### Biotech drug row

BRITISH Biotech's former head of clinical research last night launched a damning criticism of the company's two main products, as the row between Dr Adrian Millar, who was sacked last week, and his former employers descended into an ugly war of words. **Page 19**

## Sports news

### White trailing

THE Jimmy White bandwagon was running off course at the Embassy World Snooker Championship in Sheffield yesterday. Despite the vociferous support of the majority of the crowd, White trailed 7-1 to Ronnie O'Sullivan after the first session of their quarter-final. O'Sullivan today needs just six frames out of the remaining 17 to claim his place in the semi-finals. **Page 30**



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If you ever doubted that politicians need spin doctors, here's the proof

Style file: Tory leader William Hague and actress Su Pollard winning Top Tie Wearers awards from the Guild of British Tie Makers in London yesterday. Hague's euro warning, page 6; Leading article, page 16; Photograph: Andrew Burman

## Poisons ruin wildlife paradise

By Michael McCarthy  
on the Coto Donana  
and Elizabeth Nash in Seville

SPAIN is facing an ecological disaster at the Coto Donana national park, Europe's biggest nature reserve, despite earlier assurances from the Spanish government that a major leak of toxic waste had been controlled.

With heavy rain lashing the area near Seville, they fear the residue from the mining waste, laden with lead, arsenic, cyanide and other heavy metals, will permeate the area and blight it for decades.

And the effects of the contamination of an underground water supply could last 30 years, according to Miguel Ferrer, director of the Donana Biological Station,

who leads a team of scientific researchers in the park.

Although the contaminated water and sludge that burst through a dam on Saturday has been diverted away from swampy land, the park director, Alberto Ruiz de Larramendi, insists that the area surrounding the reserve must be cleaned to prevent the destruction of its function as a protective buffer zone for the wetlands. He was particularly worried that the waters now gushing into the sea at the Guadalquivir estuary were not strongly polluted.

"This means that the poisons have been deposited in the soil. Apart from the immediate impact which is already bad enough, what worries me more is that because we have diverted the course of the contaminated Guadamar river, the Donana can no longer receive water from it and it will be constantly underwater. Depriving the wetlands of their natural supplies of water will have long-term

The birds would be taking the highly toxic dead animals back to feed their young, Dr Sanchez said.

"The polluted water has been more or less controlled, but now there is a natural channel of toxicity into the park through the birds themselves," he said. "They normally go out of the national park to feed on these areas and now they are being attracted to the new mud with all its dead fish and frogs and crabs. Yet each one of these is a piece of poison."

Donana's birds of prey, from the Spanish imperial eagle down, would be affected as they ate the birds that had fed on the mud. "A chain of toxicity will build up in the park. It's very, very likely that many species will be affected in the next week or two weeks."

The park director, Alberto Ruiz de Larramendi, insists that the area surrounding the reserve must be cleaned to prevent the destruction of its function as a protective buffer zone for the wetlands. He was particularly worried that the waters now gushing into the sea at the Guadalquivir estuary were not strongly polluted.

"This means that the poisons have been deposited in the soil. Apart from the immediate impact which is already bad enough, what worries me more is that because we have diverted the course of the contaminated Guadamar river, the Donana can no longer receive water from it and it will be constantly underwater. Depriving the wetlands of their natural supplies of water will have long-term

effects on the ecological structure, whose extent I cannot predict."

The only hope would be an immediate action plan for the restoration of the whole area to include the removal of all the dead fish and other creatures, and the mud itself. "We are trying to convince the administration how urgent it is," Dr Sanchez said. "We think if no action is taken in the next few days there will be a disaster for the birds of Donana."

There is also great concern that the local groundwater might be contaminated by the toxic waste, which would be a long-lasting problem.

The Coto Donana comprises

the marshlands at the mouth of the river Guadalquivir in south-west Spain and is one of the largest wetlands in Europe.

The pollution threat is so potentially catastrophic because of the size, variety and rarity of its bird colonies, which make it a place of pilgrimage for birdwatchers from all over the world. Nesting in the park are - among much else - 600 pairs of purple herons, 400 pairs of spoonbills, 400 pairs of little egrets and 1,000 pairs of the large, cool-like purple gallinules - the sight of any one of which would be a notable "twit" for a British birdwatcher.

Toxic disaster, page 12

### Shearer is out of the World Cup squad

By Andrew Buncombe

THE RUMOURS are true. Alan Shearer and Gazza have been sensationally left out of the England squad for this summer's World Cup finals. Well, sort of.

While every England fan hopes the two players will be leading by example in France this June, there is one place they will not be appearing - the Panini World Cup sticker book.

The stickers and sticker books have gone on sale priced at £2.49. But for the first time in the 36 years that Panini have been producing stickers to mark football's greatest celebration, the company has failed to secure agreement with some of the players involved.

It means fans across Europe looking for pictures of the players will find no pictures of the rugged Georgie striker who wears No 9, or the slightly less rugged Georgie who wears a daft grin.

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) yesterday confirmed the players' absence but dismissed reports it was because there had been a disagreement over fees. "The situation was that Alan had other contractual commitments that meant he could not take part in the project," said George Berry, the PFA's com-



Alan Shearer: Ruled out by contractual commitments

mercial executive. "I don't know what those commitments were but the reports that it was about money are wrong. Alan Shearer flies the flag for the association and he often does so for barely anything."

He said Paul Gascoigne was not included because they had been unable to contact his agent in time. Because he was playing in Scotland at the time, he was not under the auspices of the PFA.

The sticker business was started by Giuseppe Panini in the 1960s, though the company has since been bought out by the US group Marvel. A statement issued by the company yesterday said: "We went to every length to ensure every player was included."

That may be the case but it will be of little consolation to the players' legions of fans. Sheila Spiers, vice-chairman of the Football Supporters' Association, said: "I think the kids will be very disappointed."

### Vaccine may herald end of the dentist

By Jeremy Laurence  
Health Editor

A LIQUID vaccine dripped onto the teeth can provide protection against dental decay for up to six months, scientists disclosed yesterday.

The discovery could spare millions the pain of the dentist's drill and threaten the future of toothpaste manufacturers. Researchers from Guy's hospital dental school, who have spent 25 years searching for a vaccine, said it was safe and effective and could be produced easily and cheaply in large quantities.

Asked if this heralded the end of tooth decay, Professor Tom Lehner, who led the research team, said: "I hope so. I think it is the beginning of the end."

The vaccine is made by genetically modifying tobacco plants to produce an antibody. In the mouth the antibody attaches itself to the bacteria that cause tooth decay, preventing them from sticking to the teeth. The bacteria, called *staphylococcus mutans*, break down sugar to form acid which etches the tooth enamel and allows decay.

A trial of the vaccine, published in *Nature Medicine*, in which it was painted on the teeth of 15 volunteers twice a week for three weeks, showed that it provided protection

against the bacteria for four months. Further observations by the research team suggest that as little as two applications every six months may be all that is needed to prevent decay. Professor Lehner said there was a "strong possibility" that the vaccine could eventually be applied at home but a larger study was needed to confirm the findings, which could take four to five years. Regular toothbrushing would continue to be necessary to keep the gums healthy, he said.

Although tooth decay has declined since the introduction of fluoride toothpaste, it still affects half of children by the age of five, and three-quarters of all 17-year-olds.

Guy's dental school has signed an agreement with a Californian company, Planet Biotechnology, to produce the vaccine and there are plans for a trial in San Francisco. The professor said he was "rather sad" that the discovery had gone to California but British companies had shown no interest.

The technique of obtaining antibodies from genetically engineered plants opened up the possibility of tackling other infections. Professor Lehner said antibodies might be produced against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and against food-poisoning bacteria such as salmonella and *E.coli*.

## CHILDREN IN SUDAN ARE DYING

She's exhausted and starving, but she's walked all day to bring her grandchild to a relief centre. She may be too late.

Civil war and drought have brought thousands of children to the brink of death in Sudan. Malnourished, exhausted and sick, they are in desperate need of help. As the lead agency coordinating relief efforts in southern Sudan, UNICEF is providing high-energy foods, medical supplies and shelter to as many as possible. But every day more children move closer to starvation.

We rely totally on voluntary contributions. If you have a cheque book or a credit card, please use it now and help us save these children while there's still time.

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Donovan: from  
Neighbours to  
Rocky Horror

■ Too tired to  
teach: the stress  
of being an  
academic

■ Our architect  
in the north:  
Michael  
Wilford's new  
look for the  
Liverpool Tate  
Gallery



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Recycled paper made up  
41.4% of the raw material for  
UK newspapers in the  
first half of 1997.

## Pupils given useless tasks

By Judith Judd  
Education Editor

TEACHERS are wasting their pupils' time by making them build pyramids out of eggboxes and Greek temples out of kitchen rolls, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools said last night.

In a lecture to the right-wing think-tank, Politeia, Mr Woodhead attacked child-centred learning and complained that too many teachers were still spending most of their lessons in activities which contributed little or nothing to learning.

In some classrooms he visited, children were colouring in objects beginning with B and being asked to spend time standing by the road counting cars going past.

Mr Woodhead, a strong supporter of traditional teaching methods and whole-class teaching, said that too many teachers, particularly in primary schools, believed "that the teacher's job is to teach children rather than subjects and that each child is unique in his or her intellectual and emotional needs". That means that they had to find ways of keeping the rest of the class busy while they spent time with different children.

"If we want to make better use of resources and achieve greater value for money we have to, above all else, question the beliefs about education and teaching which drive the minute-to-minute decisions that teachers take in the classroom." The willingness among teachers to question cherished beliefs was growing, he said, but a good number of high profile figures were resisting change.

Child-centred teaching was expensive, he suggested. Teachers were spending time making resources which it would be cheaper to buy. These resources were often only needed because teachers insisted on teaching individual children for most of the time instead of teaching the whole class.



Desirable residence: Hill Hall at Theydon Mount, in Essex, for which English Heritage is seeking a long-term tenant. Listed as Grade I and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Tudor mansion has just undergone a £2m exterior restoration after being used by the RAF in the Second World War and as a women's open prison - when it apparently accommodated Christine Keeler of the Profumo affair fame. Photograph: David Rose

## Probation hostels reject sex offenders for fear of reprisals

By Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

AT LEAST one in ten probation hostels in England and Wales were refusing to accept sex offenders because of fears of vigilante attacks, it was revealed yesterday.

A government inspector warned that it may soon become impossible to find supervised places for potentially dangerous criminals, including paedophiles, because of the recent violent demonstrations.

Inflammatory media coverage of the convicted paedophiles and child killers Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke was partly blamed for a series of protests and pickets outside hostels.

Graham Smith, the chief inspector of Probation, estimated

that about 10 of the 101 probation hostels in England and Wales were refusing to take sex offenders. Many of the other hostels are also restricting their intake to offenders living locally. The probation accommodation is semi-secure, with curfews from 10.30pm to 7am and strict supervision about what offenders are allowed to watch and read.

Probation chiefs also report that many more voluntary and church-run hostels have also banned people convicted of sex crimes because of the recent public backlash. Mr Smith said: "It's going to eventually be very hard, if not impossible, to place them [sex offenders] if we are not careful."

He added that the public and media reaction was par-

ticularly frustrating because a study by HM Inspectorate of Probation discovered that the Probation Service was doing an excellent job in supervising sex offenders in the community and keeping them from committing further crimes.

Of the 9,000 sex offenders being supervised by the Probation Service at the end of 1994 only 430 were housed in secure hostels as a condition of their release from jail. About half of all the offenders - 4,700 - were in jail, with the remainder on community penalties.

Predatory paedophiles such as Sidney Cooke, who recently provoked rioting in Bristol, made up a tiny minority of sex offenders.

Mr Smith warned that local residents who attacked or pick-

eted probation hostels to try to protect their children were in fact achieving the "exact opposite" as offenders could not be as closely supervised when living in the community.

Gill Mackenzie, vice-chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said the problem of finding places for paedophiles were worsened by a growing reluctance by hostels to take offenders from outside their immediate area.

"They don't want to become dumping grounds for the rest of the region," she said.

The report also said that it was even harder to find homes for paedophiles once they had moved out of probation hostels at the end of their period of supervision - and council housing departments were becoming

increasingly unwilling to house them. It warned that some sex offenders were placed in "particularly unsuitable blocks of flats or houses", because councils were not given enough information about the residents.

As reported in *The Independent* on Sunday, the Inspectorate expressed particular concern about a "gap" in provision for dealing with the 1,200 convicted adolescent sex offenders aged under-17.

Lack of a national programme for teenagers has meant that the authorities were failing to identify and treat paedophiles in the making.

Joyce Quin, the prisons minister with responsibility for probation, promised that the review of the youth justice system would examine this problem.

## Child beaten for 3 weeks

By Diana Blamires

A COUPLE were being questioned by police last night after a 12-year-old boy suffering from scores of injuries was discovered tied to a banister during a police raid on a house.

The youngster had suffered violent beatings and was left with a fractured skull, damage to wrists and ankles, and a dislocated jaw.

Police and paramedics were called to the house in Poole, Dorset, on Sunday night. Sources involved in the operation said they had never seen such a serious case of child abuse.

It is believed that the boy's ordeal, which included starvation and being made to stand on drawing pins, may have lasted for up to three weeks.

He was tied so tightly to the banister that the circulation to his wrists had been cut off.

The ambulance service confirmed yesterday that paramedics were called to an address in Poole at 10.05pm on Sunday.

The boy was taken to Poole General Hospital for treatment. One nurse was reduced to tears by the sight of his battered body.

The case is being investigated by detectives at Poole CID, who raided the address after receiving a tip-off from a member of the public.

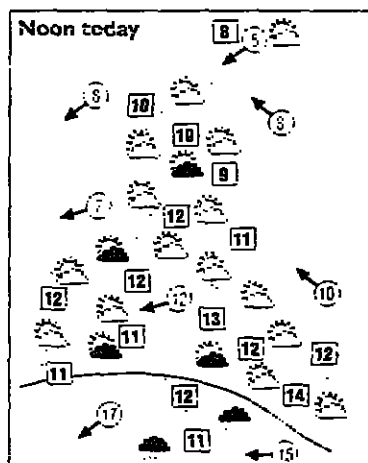
Two other children at the house have been taken to a place of safety by social workers and placed in care.

A man and a woman in their 30s were arrested at the scene and are being questioned by police. Investigating officers were granted a warrant of further detention by magistrates at Poole yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector Geoff Watts, of Dorset police, said the boy was "being treated for a number of injuries".

He added: "We are in the middle of investigating the circumstances."

## WEATHER



### British Isles weather

has been available from a national time

of weather: 01.00, 02.00, 03.00, 04.00, 05.00, 06.00, 07.00, 08.00, 09.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00, 31.00, 32.00, 33.00, 34.00, 35.00, 36.00, 37.00, 38.00, 39.00, 40.00, 41.00, 42.00, 43.00, 44.00, 45.00, 46.00, 47.00, 48.00, 49.00, 50.00, 51.00, 52.00, 53.00, 54.00, 55.00, 56.00, 57.00, 58.00, 59.00, 60.00, 61.00, 62.00, 63.00, 64.00, 65.00, 66.00, 67.00, 68.00, 69.00, 70.00, 71.00, 72.00, 73.00, 74.00, 75.00, 76.00, 77.00, 78.00, 79.00, 80.00, 81.00, 82.00, 83.00, 84.00, 85.00, 86.00, 87.00, 88.00, 89.00, 90.00, 91.00, 92.00, 93.00, 94.00, 95.00, 96.00, 97.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00, 101.00, 102.00, 103.00, 104.00, 105.00, 106.00, 107.00, 108.00, 109.00, 110.00, 111.00, 112.00, 113.00, 114.00, 115.00, 116.00, 117.00, 118.00, 119.00, 120.00, 121.00, 122.00, 123.00, 124.00, 125.00, 126.00, 127.00, 128.00, 129.00, 130.00, 131.00, 132.00, 133.00, 134.00, 135.00, 136.00, 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Ayr	Sw 14/57	Ipwich	Sw 12
Belfast	Sw 10/50	I of Scilly	C 11
Birmingham	F 13/55	Jersey	F 12
Blackpool	F 12/51	Liverpool	Sw 14
Bournemouth	F 13/55	London	Sw 13
Brighton	C 12/54	Manchester	F 13
Bristol	C 12/55	Newcastle	C 11
Cardiff	F 12/54	Oxford	F 13
Cardisla	Sw 12/54	Plymouth	C 12
Doner	Sw 12/54	Southborough	F 13
Dublin	H 9	Southampton	F 11
Edinburgh	C 10/50	Southsea	Sw 12
Exeter	Sw 12/54	Starnoway	Sw 12
Glasgow	C 14/57	York	F 13



مكة من الأحول

## Top lawyers get £500,000 a year from legal aid

By Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

A "TOP 40" list of the barristers and firms of solicitors that earn the most from legal aid work reveals that some lawyers can make more than £500,000 a year, while one company was paid £8.5m.

Statistics from the Lord Chancellor's Department disclosing the 20 barristers and 20 solicitors' firms who reap most from the legal aid fund were immediately criticised yesterday by the Bar Council as misleading and inaccurate.

The publication of the totals, which range for individuals from £190,000 to more than £500,000, is considered by some as an attempt by Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, to "soften up" the legal profession and public in the run up to proposed cuts in the £1.4bn legal aid budget.

The figures, although complex and in several cases incomplete, do however provide an interesting insight into what some of the legal high-fliers can earn from public funds.

The two top earners are Alun Jones, QC, and Malcolm Swift, QC, who earned at least £500,000 from legal aid in the year 1996-97. Mr Jones, 49, was head of Kevin Maxwell's legal team during his fraud trial - said to be the most expensive criminal trial yet. Other big-earning barristers were Edmund Lawson QC, currently counsel to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, who was paid more than £450,000, and leading defence counsel Ronald Thwaites, who earned more than £400,000. All the figures could include work done in previous years and may omit money owed from on-going cases.

Timothy Raggatt QC, one of the barristers named as a high earner, denied receiving more than £350,000 in legal aid in the previous financial year. He said he had actually earned a total of £265,000 last year, from le-

gal aid and other sources, but after running costs for his two sets of chambers and other deductions he expected to pay tax on about £190,000.

He said: "I don't think I would pretend that's other than a comfortable income." But he added: "It's comparable with a partner in a modest firm of accountants or a consultant surgeon. I'm a senior professional doing the most serious work in my professional field - murder cases, fraud, child abuse and seven-figure personal injury cases."

The biggest earning solicitor's firm was Nottingham-based Freeth Cartwright Hunt Dicks, which was paid more than £8.5m. But much of this cash was passed on to other solicitors and barristers involved in complex multi-party actions. The firm employs 160 lawyers.

Irwin Mitchell, a high-profile personal injury practice with offices in London, the Midlands and Yorkshire, was the second biggest-earning solicitors' firm, netting payments of more than £2.6m.

Nigel Pascoe QC, chair of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "These figures are open to very serious misinterpretation, particularly by those determined to undermine the Bar. Good barristers resent crude attempts to pillory them, instead of a fair examination of the true position."

The Law Society, which represents solicitors, said the figures "did not add anything to the debate on legal aid".

Lawyers believe that the publication of the figures by Geoff Hoon, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, in response to a parliamentary question, is an attempt to gain support for the Government's plan to reform the legal aid system.

Lord Irvine plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases this summer and replace it with conditional "no win, no fee" agreements.



John Eatwell: Seeking professional expertise in board members

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Royal Ballet addict with a surprising passion for rugby

IN THE NEWS  
LORD EATWELL

LORD EATWELL, once Neil Kinnock's economics adviser, later Labour's economic spokesman in the House of Lords and now President of Queen's College, Cambridge, is at first sight an unlikely chairman of the Royal Ballet. Rugby football is his chief recreation, writes David Lister.

But the appointment of John Eatwell yesterday to chair the Royal Ballet board will not surprise his students at Queen's College. He famously sent them to dance classes to be trained by a ballerina.

"They now know they have muscles where they didn't think any existed," he said, "and their results have improved" - although he concedes the credit for that to their rugby coach rather than their dance coach.

In his first interview as Royal Ballet chairman given exclusively to *The Independent*, Lord Eatwell promised a new approach aimed at getting more young people in to watch dance and widening the education remit of the company. But ballet prices which usually go up to around £50 did not strike him as unreasonable.

"For a three-hour evening you should pay 30 per cent more than you pay to see Chelsea for one and a half hours," he said. "The people are the same age, they are just as athletic and you get music too. But, yes, we have to bring in people who have never been before."

Lord Eatwell's own conversion to ballet came in 1987. "When my 19-year-old daughter Tatiana was six ... the Royal Ballet came to Cambridge and performed in a tent on Jesus Green. I took her to see *Swan Lake*. It was the first time I had been to the ballet ... I thought it was the most wonderful thing I had ever seen. I became an addict and needed a regular fix ... The first thing that struck me forcibly that day was 'my

God, how can they do that': the sheer physical virtuosity of the company, and then I got more involved in the ideas in dance."

Lord Eatwell says he is looking forward to the company having a home and rehearsal space in Covent Garden for the first time when the Royal Opera House reopens next year. The Royal Ballet will have five performance and rehearsal studios; there will be open rehearsals and space dedicated to new and experimental work.

His new approach is characterised by the board members he has chosen: "I wanted to put together a board of people with professional expertise to bring to the service of the Royal Ballet."

And so he has choreographer and community dance expert Christopher Bannerman; promoter Lillian Hochhauser; dance film producer Ross McGibbon; broadcaster Susannah Simons; and the president of the Royal Academy of Dancing, Dame Antoinette Sibley, as well as musician and choreographer Kenneth Thorpe.

Also yesterday, the Royal Opera board under composer Michael Berkeley was widening its expertise appointing such people as singer Thomas Allen and Royal Academy of Arts exhibitions organiser Norman Rosenthal.

Lord Eatwell said of the Royal Ballet: "It is our responsibility to show that we use our public subsidy effectively and present an exciting programme, and that we are changing peoples lives like mine was changed in a tent in Jesus Green."

**FROM SWINDON TO THINKTANK:** John Eatwell went to grammar school in Swindon. His wife, Hélène, is French and of Russian origin. They have two sons and one daughter. Lord Eatwell, who has taught economics at Cambridge since 1970, helped to set up the Institute of Public Policy Research, a Labour thinktank.

**ON 'REAL' UNEMPLOYMENT:** Last year he claimed the "real" level of unemployment was 12 rather than 6 per cent. There is a great deal of "disguised" unemployment, he said. He defines this as all the people doing a job where their productivity is below their potential - for instance, a qualified accountant who can only find work selling hamburgers.

**RUGBY - HOUSE OF LORDS STYLE:** At the age of 53, Lord Eatwell still plays rugby for the Lords and Commons team. But this is rugby for chaps used to good lunches. The team plays games of four 15-minute sessions with intervals between each session for them to get their breath back.

**ON BALLET AND COOL BRITANNIA:** "I have had discussions with the Foreign Office who are very keen to promote the Royal Ballet and dance generally. So watch this space. One aspect of ballet and dance is that it is a universal language. I don't accept that the Royal Ballet is ignored at all in Cool Britannia. It's a vital force."

## Virus fears lead scientists to hold back on pig transplants

By Jeremy Lawrence  
Health Editor

SCIENTISTS planning the world's first xenotransplant from a genetically modified pig said yesterday they would only go ahead if studies showed patients already treated with living pig tissue remained uninfected by pig viruses.

Hundreds of people worldwide, many in Russia and Eastern Europe, have been treated temporarily with tissue or organs taken from pigs while their own organs recovered or while they waited for a human transplant. Skin, livers, spleens and kidneys have been used in the experiments - in all cases (except skin) outside the body but attached to it.

Researchers from Imutran, the Cambridge biotechnology company which has bred a herd of genetically modified pigs for use in human transplants, are

examining blood samples from 150 of these patients for evidence of viral transmission. The results are to be presented to a scientific meeting in July.

Dr Corinne Savill, chief operating officer of Imutran, told a press briefing yesterday that if the findings of this and other laboratory studies currently under way were positive, the company would move to the first human trials involving transgenic pig livers. These would be used as a temporary "liver dialysis" machine, attached to the patient outside the body for up to 72 hours, allowing extra time to find a human transplant.

If these were successful, the company would apply to the regulatory authority set up by the Government last year for approval to move to a small clinical trial involving the transplant of kidneys, and, later, hearts. "Nobody who is serious about

xenotransplantation sees this as a quick fix."

Ms Savill said the first human transplants could take place within five years - a more cautious projection than was offered at the company's last press conference in 1995 when the scientists behind Imutran, David White, an immunologist, and John Wallwork, a transplant surgeon, reported their success in transplanting pig hearts into monkeys and said they hoped to begin the first human trials by the end of 1996.

Yesterday's meeting was a subdued affair at which Professor Robin Weiss of the Institute of Cancer Research, the first scientist to warn of the risk of transmission of pig viruses, was invited by the company to spell out his fears.

Professor Weiss said there were four pig retroviruses identified and laboratory studies had shown that two had the poten-

tial to infect humans. A virus which caused leukaemia in gibbons had been shown by genetic analysis to be derived from rodents, in whom it caused no harm. "Pigs have a similar virus that could come out. That is what we are worried about."

Retroviruses cannot be bred out of the pigs because they are inserted in the DNA of the cell. Furthermore, genetic modification of the pigs to prevent rejection of their organs by humans might make viral transmission more likely. The risk to patients in the trials would probably be outweighed by potential benefit but the risk of a virus spreading into the human population, although remote, was potentially far more devastating.

Professor Weiss said: "If we are doing fancy things to make the transplant work, are we upping the ante in terms of infection? We don't know but we want to be wise before the event."

## MPs call for ban on sale of Mary Bell book

By Anthony Bevis  
Political Editor

NINE Labour MPs have called for a book written with the help of child-killer Mary Bell to be banned.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said on Monday that he would consider changing the law to stop criminals from profiting from their crimes through book deals.

But a Commons motion tabled by Labour MPs yesterday went much further, saying that the book, by Gitta Sereny, should be banned altogether.

The first instalment of a serialisation of the book, to be published by Macmillan, is due to appear at the weekend, and a row has been provoked by the fact that Ms Sereny has admitted she paid Bell for her help in producing the book, *Cries Unheard*.

She has refused to say how much money was involved, although yesterday's Commons motion noted "with disgust reports that payments of £50,000 have been given

to Mary Bell, a child killer convicted in 1968 of murdering two children."

The murdered children were Martin Brown, aged four, and three-year-old Brian Howe.

Yesterday's motion said such a payment "is deeply offensive to the general population and to the parents of the victims, as Mary Bell should not be permitted to profit from these tragedies."

The MPs urged Mr Straw "to take action to ensure that other criminals are not able to 'make money from their crimes'."

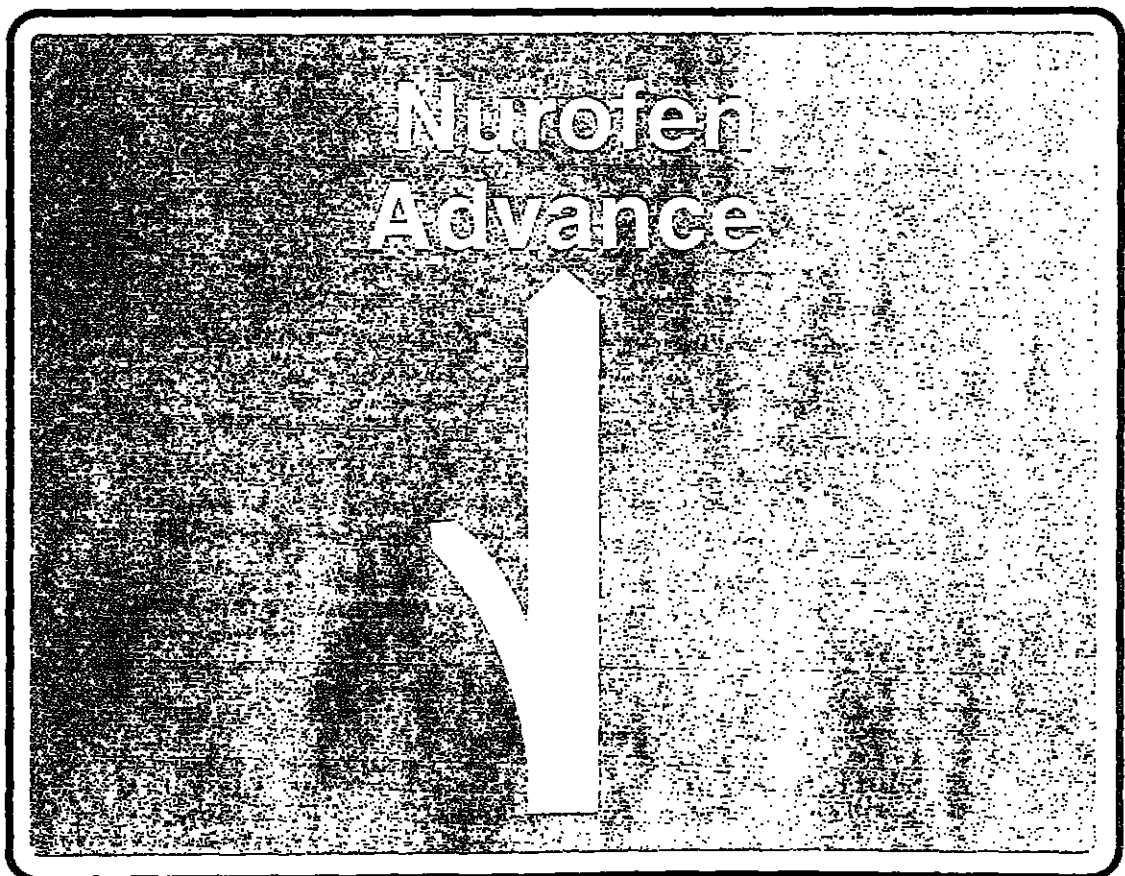
Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Chorley and the motion's main sponsor, said yesterday: "I am disgusted Mary Bell is able to profit from these horrific murders."

"It is extremely insulting to the parents of the victims of these murders to see that the person convicted of killing their child is allowed to cash in on their atrocities." Mary Bell, who was released from prison in 1980, now lives in the North of England under an assumed identity.



Mary Bell: unlikely to profit

Letters, page 16



## NEW NUROFEN ADVANCE. FAST ROUTE TO PAIN RELIEF.

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# Peace drive too late for an innocent young man



The body of Claran Heffron being taken through his home village of Crumlin, Co Antrim, yesterday. A Catholic student, he was murdered on Friday by suspected loyalist gunmen

Photograph: Brian Harris

By Kim Sengupta  
in Co Antrim

IT WAS a busy day in the drive for a settlement in Northern Ireland yesterday, with the ANC and Chris Patten in the news. But it was all too late for Claran Heffron.

The latest casualty of sectarian hatred was buried by his family at his home village in a ceremony which echoed the sorrow and anger of his community at the waste of a life when peace seems so near. The 22-year-old student is believed to have been the victim of loyalist terrorists out looking for a Catholic to kill.

His funeral at the village of Crumlin, Co Antrim, was attended by Catholics and Protestants. A thousand walked in silence behind the cortege, the church of Mater Dei was full, and hundreds stood outside in the rain to hear the parish priest say Mr Heffron's murderers were "inspired by the Devil" to do what they did. He was shot dead in the ear-

ly hours of Saturday as he took a short cut home from his local pub after a night out with friends. His killers are believed to be from the Loyalist Volunteer Force, although it has not claimed responsibility.

Father John O'Sullivan, who knew Claran, a University of Ulster student, well, declared

that the reason for the death was religion. "Sometime on Friday evening some evil men decided that a Catholic young man should die in Crumlin. The only reason for the killing was his religion. God had given these men the gift of free will, to do something good and noble or to do something cruel,

cowardly and vicious. And, inspired by the Devil, they made the decision to kill an innocent young man."

The Bishop of Down and Connor, The Most Reverend Michael Dallat, said that in the minds of the gunmen "Claran was guilty, guilty of being a Catholic. What makes his mur-

der even more heinous is that it was done when so many people in this land are fervently praying for peace. We cannot, dare not, give up hope. We must continue to pray for an end to sectarianism and pray for a just and lasting peace."

Crumlin is a mixed community without a history of

any serious trouble between the communities. Almost all the shops in the village were shut as a mark of respect, and the Ulster Unionist Mayor, Paddy Marks, was among those at the service. Also there was David Ford, an Antrim councillor and general secretary of the Alliance Party.

Many people had come from other towns and villages, and some said they felt a need to be there to show their belief in a multi-religious future for Ulster. Robert Donaldson, from Belfast, said: "I am a Protestant and I wish to state that the people who did this do not represent me or my religion."

I have got nothing but contempt for them. We must learn to live together if we are to have any hope of a normal future."

At 11am yesterday a minute's silence was observed at the University of Ulster's campuses. Peter Roebuck, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Provost of the Coleraine campus, expressed the shock the university has felt. There was also sympathy for Mr Heffron's family and condemnation for his murderers from the National Union of Students, and the Union of Students in Ireland, which at the weekend called on members to vote yes in the coming referendum.

There have been claims that Mr Heffron's killers had attended a rally of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party on Friday evening. But this was denied by Dr Paisley, who said: "We are totally opposed to any violence... We have no association with anybody that takes violent means. There is an effort to try and blacken us but the truth will out."

## Yes men ride into battle against Paisley

By David McKitterick  
Ireland Correspondent

THE Ulster Unionists and the SDLP yesterday launched their separate campaigns for a Yes vote in next month's referendum on the Good Friday agreement, as senior members of the African National Congress arrived in Belfast for a series of republican-sponsored events.

Up to now the No campaign, headed by the Rev Ian Paisley, has enjoyed the lion's share of publicity and exposure, with

many elements complaining that the pro-agreement forces have been much less visible and vociferous.

Those who support the accord hope that Mr Paisley's campaign, centring on a series of rallies and doom-predicting news conferences, may have peaked too soon. One possible straw in the wind came when the local council in Larnie, Co Antrim, voted in favour of agreement.

The loyalist town has both a strong Paisley influence and

an Ulster Unionist MP, Roy Beggs, who is strongly opposed to his party's endorsement of the accord.

Pro-agreement elements therefore take it as a heartening sign that the Unionist grassroots are leaning towards the accord.

The senior ANC member Cyril Ramaphosa is to visit republican prisoners in the Maze H-blocks today, and is tonight scheduled to share a rally platform with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams.

Anti-agreement Unionist MPs have meanwhile criticised the news that Chris Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong, has been asked by Tony Blair to head the commission looking into the future of policing in Northern Ireland.

William Thompson MP said of him: "Most Unionists will remember Mr Patten as he stood lowering the Union Jack on Hong Kong and what we find in Northern Ireland is that the British government are slowly but surely lowering the Union

Jack. Perhaps it is appropriate that they bring him along to take part in that."

The emergence of Mr Patten's name has however been welcomed by the Ulster Unionist party leadership, Ken Maginnis MP describing him as "a man of outstanding ability and someone who will understand the implications of having had to police a community like ours since 1970".

Gardaí in the Irish Republic have meanwhile ruled out paramilitary involvement in

the murder of a Belfast man whose body was found wrapped in plastic sheeting near the border on Monday. They are instead following the theory that the victim died as the result of a row between drugs gangs.

A number of men are helping the RUC with inquiries into the recent killings of two Catholic men by extreme Protestant groups. More arrests were made yesterday following searches in the Co Armagh town of Portadown.

Leading article, page 20

### Boys die as wall collapses

TWO BOYS were crushed to death yesterday when a wall collapsed on top of them while they were playing on waste ground. The accident happened as the pair were trying to make a hammock from wire across the 5ft walls on the land in Kemsley, Kent.

The two friends, who lived locally, were named as Gavin Glover, 15, and Steven Coleman, 11. A third boy, also 15, who has not been named, was playing there but was unhurt; he raised the alarm. The wasteland belongs to a packaging company, Rexam plc, based in Knightsbridge, west London. A spokesman for the company yesterday said it would be releasing a statement.

### Welsh assembly finds home

THE National Assembly for Wales will have its home on a site close to the historic Pierhead building on the waterfront in Cardiff, Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, confirmed yesterday. The Royal Institute of British Architects is to organise a competition to select an architect and design for the building. The headquarters will not, however, be ready in time for the first elections to the devolved body in May next year.

### No May Day dip for students

OXFORD students have been banned from the traditional May Day celebration of jumping from Magdalen Bridge into the River Cherwell because of fears over safety. Chief Inspector Phil Gurney of Thames Valley Police said the river was running 10 times faster than last year, and, if the students jump in, "they are unlikely to surface".

## Anti-racist groups took over Lawrence family, police liaison officer claims

By Kathy Marks

A POLICE family liaison officer assigned to support the parents of Stephen Lawrence, the murdered black teenager, admitted yesterday that relations with them had deteriorated rapidly but denied being offhand or unsympathetic.

Detective Sergeant John Bevan told the public inquiry into Stephen's death that he and another liaison officer, Detective Constable Linda Holden, were regarded with suspicion and mistrust soon after meeting Neville and Doreen Lawrence.

Asked by Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, why relations broke down, he replied: "That's something that I have mused over for five years, and I would love to have an answer to it."

"I tried everything I could to



Stephen Lawrence: Parents say police were patronising

communicate with the Lawrences. I wanted to be there for them, and I still want to be there for them today."

The Lawrences have told the inquiry that Det Sgt Bevan and Det Con Holden were patron-

ising towards them and kept them in the dark about the progress of the murder investigation.

The inquiry has also heard that members of groups such as the Anti-Racist Alliance set up camp in the Lawrence house after the murder.

Det Sgt Bevan, who volunteered for the liaison task, said: "There were tremendous barriers to communication. I think the Lawrences were taken over by lots of outside bodies who wanted to make their own statement through them. I think it was that that had the biggest effect on the lack of communication."

He denied that he and Det Con Holden had been unsympathetic or offhand with the Lawrences because they were black. "Certainly not, in no way whatsoever," he replied. "I

remain tremendously sympathetic to this day, and that's absolutely genuine."

Mr Lawson suggested to Det Sgt Bevan that he had given the family no information whatsoever to explain the two-week delay before any arrests were made.

He replied: "I think I would have told them that some suspects had been identified, but probably no more than that."

Later, Mrs Lawrence issued a statement responding to claims this week by three police officers that the attack on Stephen, who was stabbed by a white gang, was not racially motivated.

"In my view, from what I am hearing, police officers in this case did not wish to pursue it in a vigorous manner," she said. The inquiry was adjourned until today.

### DAILY POEM

#### After Making Love

By Stephen Dunn

No one should ask the other  
"What were you thinking?"

No one, that is,  
who doesn't want to hear about the past

and its inhabitants,  
or the strange loneliness of the present  
filled, even as it may be, with pleasure,  
or those snapshots

of the future, different heads  
on different bodies.

Some people actually desire honesty.  
They must never have broken

into their own solitary houses  
after having misplaced the key,  
never seen with an intruder's eyes  
what is theirs.

This poem comes from the American poet Stephen Dunn's tenth collection, *Loosestrife*, which is published today by WW Norton (£8.50).

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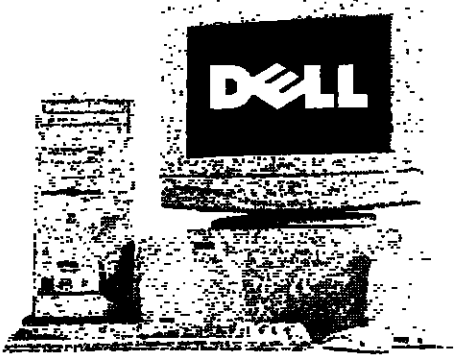
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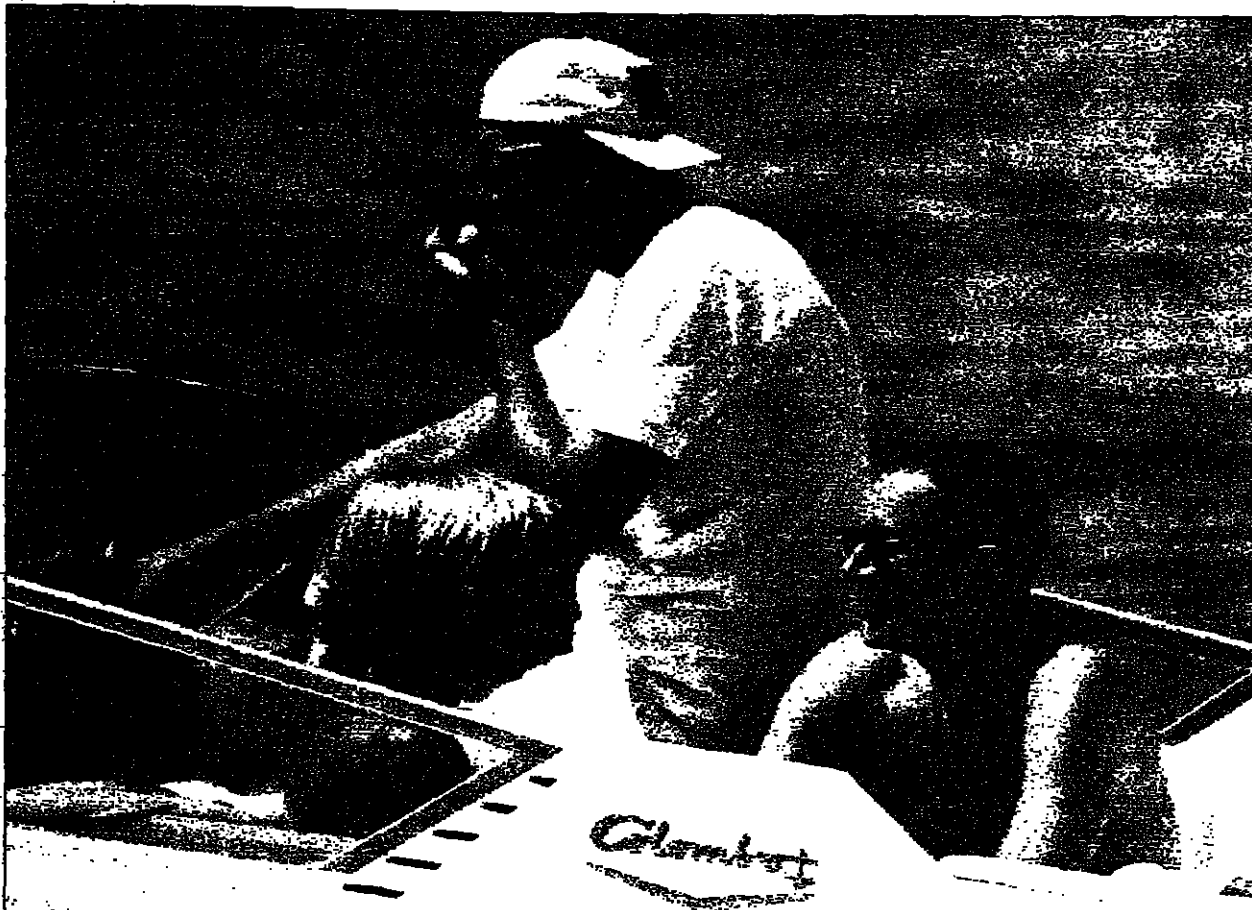
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## Paris-Match fined for publishing photo of Diana and Dodi kissing



Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed on board the yacht at the time the contentious shot was taken

By John Lichfield  
in Paris

THE celebrated paparazzi photograph of a kiss between Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed cost the magazine *Paris-Match* £10,000 in fines and damages yesterday.

In an action brought by Dodi's father, Mohamed Al Fayed, a court in Paris found the magazine guilty of breaching the French law which forbids press intrusion into private life.

The magazine published the photo - already widely used by the British press and others - four days before the road accident which killed the couple in Paris on 31 August last year.

Nine photographers and a photographic dispatch rider, who were pursuing Diana's car when it crashed, are still under investigation for possible charges of manslaughter and failing to give assistance after an accident.

The photograph was taken off the coast of France when Diana and Dodi were on holiday last August on Mr Fayed's yacht. In the court hearing on 3 March, Bernard Darteville,

the lawyer acting for Mr Fayed, said he had personally requested *Paris-Match* not to use the photograph at the time.

The editor, Roger Thérond, had refused, saying its widespread use by other media made it virtually a public document.

Mr Fayed had asked for £40,000 in damages.

The conviction of *Paris-Match* under the privacy laws is an example of the toughness of the French legislation; but it is also a reminder of its ineffectiveness. A £10,000 bill for fines and damages will not unduly bother the magazine, which has often paid far more for the right to use exclusive photographs.

*Paris-Match's* even more intrusive rival *L'Espresso* was convicted of 37 similar offences last year.

It will upset *Paris-Match*, however, to be singled out for its connection with the paparazzi hue and cry last summer, which continued until a few seconds before Diana and Dodi died.

The magazine must publish an account of the judgment in its next issue.

### Sucks and stones

IF CHRIS PANDORA returns to Northern Ireland to look into the RUC's role in the province, he will be welcomed back to the province by many, particularly his friends in the SDLP. However, Pandora recalled that a number of Unionists were deeply upset with Pandora's 1994 decision as environment minister to change the name of the Lough to "Derry". He was even called "Lundy", a highly insulting nickname for "traitor" in that part of the province. Pandora is certain that Chris, having been called "traitor" by the Chinese regime, won't be prevented from doing an impartial job by a few more slurs.

### Disappearing minister

THE current impending re-shuffle is enlivening all the ears of Westminster. Pandora's poll of Commons imbibers revealed that the most heavily tipped minister to get the chop is Tom Clarke, minister for film and tourism, known as "Mr. Lysitric".

### Piercing question

AFTER the Chelsea interior designer Nicky Haslam revamped his image, he found life as a Liam Gallagher-lookalike full of opportunities. Most recently in the Ivy, Nicky was telling friends: "Ever since Carla told Peter that I was pierced down here I just can't keep him off the telephone." Pandora wonders who and what Nicky could possibly be talking about?

### Earl goes without

EARL Spencer made a terrible PR mistake when he was rude to a gossip columnist from the *New York Post* at the White House correspondents' dinner on Saturday. "I don't read newspapers," he told the hack. "I haven't read a newspaper in eight months." The earl couldn't have known that the one US newspaper which appears to be widely read by British journalists is the *NY Post*. Its three daily gossip columns are available on the Internet and Pandora's counterparts seem to devour them. Yesterday, for example, the diary columns of the *Telegraph*, *Times* and the *Express's* William Hickey all picked up the *Post's* story about a tantrum thrown by the British actress Minnie Driver aboard an aeroplane from LA to New York. Pandora will look with great interest this morning to see if either the *Telegraph*, *Times* or *Express* carries the *Post's* story about Earl Spencer's newspaper abstinence.

Pandora

By Paul McCann  
Media Editor

THE COMEDIAN Harry Enfield has been pipped at the post for television's top prize for a record third time after losing the Golden Rose of Montreux last night to cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his unique television interpretation of Bach.

Nevertheless British programmes again dominated the awards, winning half the silvers on offer and taking a third of the nominations.

The American cellist collaborated with artists, film directors, and even the ice-skaters

Torvill and Dean, to make a wacky classical music programme that used film sets, outdoor scenes and on-screen graphics rather than the traditional concert hall setting. The top-award was taken by the Canadian company which made it, but the six-part series was shown on BBC2 at the beginning of this year to much critical acclaim.

Harry Enfield won a Silver Rose in the comedy category. It was his third silver, having won in 1990 for *Norbert Smith A Life* and in 1995 for his *Smashy and Nicey* send up of ageing disc jockeys.

In acknowledgement that Enfield keeps being runner-up, the town of Montreux created a special award of its own to send to the comedian.

Enfield said last night: "I'm delighted that my shows seem to have gone down so well over the years in Montreux. It probably means that they are equally comprehensible in any language."

Also getting a silver for Britain was BBC2's less well-known sit-com *Operation Good Guys*, a spoof fly-on-the-wall documentary about an inept police crime squad. It pushed Channel 4's smash hit *Father*

*Ted* into third place, garnering a bronze for its makers, Hat Trick Productions.

It emerged from the closed jury sessions that *Operation Good Guys* was neck-and-neck against Yo-Yo Ma for the Golden Rose. Geoffrey Perkins, the BBC's head of comedy, said the programme was not only innovative, it was also one of the cheapest ever made for British television.

Fledgling British broadcaster Channel 5 won its first ever programme award by winning a silver award for its documentary *Ozzy Osbourne - Uncut*.

A Japanese game show format which has been bought by ITV to be fronted by Cilla Black won the silver in the game show category.

*Happy Family Plan*, which will be softened for the British market, challenges families to learn tricks over a course of a week if they want to win prizes.

It has become a hit in Japan thanks to scenes of anguish as children are parted from the fabulous prizes they have played with for a week because their parents have not mastered the task set them by the show.



Harry Enfield: Special award from town of Montreux

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# Labour chief regrets 'Donnygate' scandal

By Linus Gregoriadis

DONCASTER Council's ruling Labour group apologised for its involvement in the "Donnygate" scandal yesterday as part of its campaign for next week's local government elections.

Malcolm Glover, leader of the council, chose a visit to a nursery to unveil his party's election manifesto, and to apologise for the corruption scandals that continue to embarrass the Labour-held council.

The statement, printed in Labour's Doncaster Manifesto, Change and Renewal, said: "The last year has been a difficult one for both the Labour Party and the people of Doncaster. The image of the party, the council and the borough as a whole has suffered because of the activities of a small number of people, and the Labour Party deeply regrets what has hap-

pened. The Labour Party has responded to the serious allegations that have been made and acted to bring about real change across the party in Doncaster."

Mr Glover, speaking at the Balby Family Resource Centre in the ward where he is up for re-election next Thursday, said: "We are sorry about what has happened over the last 12 months. When you have an episode like we have for the last 12 months, it has been traumatic for people, traumatic for me as leader and traumatic for my colleagues."

However, his words, which follow refusals by himself and other senior Labour figures to apologise over councillors' misconduct, were dismissed by critics of the council as a cynical stunt designed to boost Labour's chances in next week's election, in which one-third of

the metropolitan borough's seats are being contested.

Ted Moffatt from the group, Name The Names, which wants councillors who are under investigation for over-claiming expenses to be identified, said: "There are various councillors standing in the elections who have been involved in the paying back of expenses as a result of the district auditor's investigation. People should know who they are voting for. This statement is not enough."

A district auditor's investigation has been going on for more than two years in Doncaster after allegations of junketing and of corrupt land deals. Although an interim report named four senior council figures as particularly culpable, this investigation and a parallel one by South Yorkshire Police are still going on. Claims of excessive foreign

travel, expenses and hospitality, and allegations that council members had questionable relationships with local developers are under scrutiny.

Labour's National Executive suspended the district party in the aftermath of the scandal. It was recently revealed that police had obtained court orders to search the bank accounts of 15 key councillors, and that a £200m property development involving a company controlled by Douglas Hall, the former vice-chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, was also being investigated by police.

Doncaster Tories are hoping to benefit from local discontent in next week's election. Andrew Isaacs, the local party chairman, is hoping to win a seat in the Bessacarr ward which now has Labour councillors in all three of its seats, but which is traditionally a Tory area.



Malcolm Glover, the leader of Doncaster Council, making a public apology for the 'Donnygate' scandal during a visit to a children's playground and nursery at a family resource centre yesterday  
Photograph: John Houlihan/Guzelian

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## PM's aide rages at newspaper

By Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

A SCATHING attack on "the vomit" of the *Daily Telegraph* has been delivered by the Prime Minister's official spokesman, Alastair Campbell.

His antipathy towards the right-wing broadsheet has been prompted by its negative coverage of the Northern Ireland peace process - even after the Good Friday agreement.

Mr Campbell has made an art form of taking on government critics, repeatedly picking on BBC radio's *The World at One* and the *Guardian*. But his loathing for the *Telegraph* peaked in his in-flight conversation with the press pack during last week's flying visit to the Middle East.

He was particularly annoyed by two editorials on 20 April. One leader accused the Prime Minister of "emotional arrogance" for his attack on the snobbery of those criticising the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The other editorial suggested it would be "pure presumption" for Tony Blair to attempt anything more than a groundbreaking exercise for the American diplomatic effort in the Middle East - after Mr Blair

had taken every opportunity to spell out the fact that that was the limit of his ambition, and that he had no wish to "cut across" the American lead.

The newspaper's coverage of Northern Ireland has been marked by its doom-mongering, and the more pessimistic it has been, the more annoyed Mr Campbell has become.

Soon after last year's election landslide, the newspaper's Irish correspondent, Toby Harnden, reported that it was unlikely that Mr Blair would want to move quickly on Northern Ireland, adding: "There is also a question mark over how committed Mr Blair can be to achieving a settlement in Northern Ireland."

By January, Mr Harnden was reporting: "With the Northern Ireland talks stalled after 18 months without discernible progress, the 'peace process' appeared to be edging once again towards collapse."

After the Good Friday agreement had been reached, Mr Harnden reported: "It will be many months before it becomes clear whether the elaborate arrangements agreed on Friday will succeed in practice, and the agreement states that if one part collapses, then the whole structure will fall down."

## Price of euro-fudge

ECONOMIC turmoil, high interest rates, job losses and bankruptcies will follow a fudged deal by European Union leaders on the single currency in Brussels this weekend, William Hague warned yesterday, writes Anthony Bevins.

The warning was delivered as a Labour-dominated Commons select committee reported that it would take at least five years before it could be known whether the currency was working, and whether it would meet British tests for viability.

In a speech to a London business conference, the Conservative leader said: "Before the election, the Prime Minister promised that he would stop a fudged single currency. This Friday, on the an-

niversary of the general election, he must ... speak out against a fudged single currency. My guess is that he will duck the decision and leave the people and businesses of Europe to pick up the pieces."

Mr Hague warned that economic alignment between the countries joining up to the euro was an essential pre-requisite for a currency that could work. "Get it wrong and businesses will pay the price," he said.

Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor, last night noted with satisfaction that as the currency does not replace national currencies until 2002, another five-year moratorium would effectively rule out membership in the next parliament - in line with Tory party policy.

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# Children 'not ready for work of tomorrow'

By Barrie Clement  
Labour MP

UNLESS the education system undergoes immediate and revolutionary change "millions" of Britons will be condemned to a life without work.

The Government and business are showing a "worrying lack of understanding about the pace and extent of change", according to one of the country's foremost independent think-tanks.

In a sidestroke at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's tough economic policy, a hard-hitting critique published yesterday by the Royal Society of Arts said government must recognise the need to create employment as well as control inflation.

And instead of concentrating on cramming general knowledge into young people, schools should also impart practical "competences" so that pupils can survive in the brave new world of flexibility.

The study declares that educational institutions are preparing people for a world which no longer exists.

Written by Valerie Bayliss, the report, *Redefining Work*, says that incessant reforms of the Eighties and Nineties "bolted change on to a system which is essentially 19th century".

Ms Bayliss said young people wanted their education to prepare them for the real world with skills they need to live and work.

To prepare for the new millennium the education system should be built around "competences" such as literacy, numeracy, familiarity with information technology and an understanding of the concept of

"proof". Young people should also be equipped to acquire knowledge and an ability to manage their time and finances.

Ms Bayliss argues that there has already been a revolutionary change in the world of work over the last two decades. Some 70 per cent of the new jobs created in the last five years have not been full-time or permanent. The era of the traditional, permanent job was quickly coming to an end and the pace of change was accelerating.

Workers, however, had a limited ability to deal with such flexibility, she believes. Around half of the adult population left school at 15 and half of those have had no formal education since.

While ministers had made a start in reforming the benefits system, it was essential that the unemployed should be encouraged to become more employable by constantly updating and changing their skills. She contended that after three months on the dole, a condition of benefit should be that the claimant improves his or her employability.

The report calls for a Learning Institute to encourage a life-long process of education. The institute would provide the research on which to base the new system.

Many people distrusted the advice they received from financial companies. The financial sector needed to redesign their products to cope with the new uncertainties.

For environmental reasons the Government would eventually give tax concessions for teleworking, so that most people would work from home at least some of the time.



Furging: Gridlock in Crystal Palace yesterday, near the site of the proposed 4,000-seat cinema and its 1,000-place car park. Photograph: Andy Blackmore

## Car park sprawl may choke capital

AN AREA larger than Hyde Park, St James's Park and Green Park will be covered in concrete and converted to car parks under proposals being considered by London councils. A study by the Council for the Protection of England, entitled *London's Great Parking Plague*, has found that boroughs are planning for 120,000 parking places, covering 615 acres.

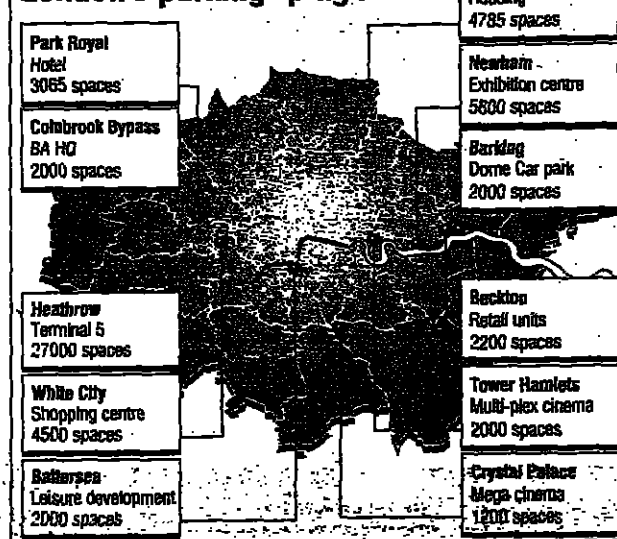
Randeep Ramesh on plans that 'mock ministerial calls to leave cars at home'

The report argues that by approving such schemes ministers are giving the go-ahead to generate millions of car trips - "mocking calls by ministers to leave the car at home". Some of the biggest schemes include 6,100 spaces at the Millennium Dome; 5,800 at an exhibition centre in Newham, east London; and 4,500 at the White City Shopping Centre, west London.

The largest development is the Terminal 5 project at Heathrow, which, if given the go-ahead, could be home to a 27,000-space car park.

The scale of proposed developments is in part due to the booming London economy. This demands homes for people to live in; shops to fulfil their consumer needs; and increasingly large leisure complexes for their spare time. So it is unsurprising to find Enfield borough council planning a residential develop-

### London's parking "plague"



ment with parking for 2,000 cars near a cinema-cum-sports complex which itself has nearly 800 parking spaces.

There are no comprehensive figures on the amount of car parking available in London. Surveys compiled by London First, a lobby group for big business in the capital, estimates that there are 160,000 "public off-street parking spaces" in the 32 London boroughs, and a further 100,000 spaces in inner London for those who drive to work.

Transport experts have long cited the ability to park at the end of a journey as a major reason why people make trips by car, rather than by public transport.

The Government recognises and accepts this analysis. Ministers issued planning guidance two months ago which stated that "non-residential parking" should be "significantly reduced".

The amount of traffic that the new parking arrangements would generate is unclear.

"The total number of trips generated by a single car-parking space depends on what it is being used for," said Lynn Sloan, assistant director for the think-tank Transport 2000.

"For a business, it would be one trip in and one trip out. But for a shopping trip each space could be filled every two hours."

However, company car parks cause more havoc. "The journeys made occur in the rush hour - just when you do not want them," said Irving Yass, transport analyst at London First.

The forthcoming transport White Paper is likely to allow councils to tax "private non-residential" car parking in order to raise revenue for public transport and reduce congestion in town centres. A survey for Bristol city council showed that using existing powers to curb car parking would lead to a drop of 41 per cent in traffic levels.

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## Prescott faces court challenge over 'film village' in London park

CAMPAIGNERS are set to take ministers to court over plans for London's largest cinema complex which will see a 20-screen film village and a 1,000-place car park erected on one of the capital's parks, writes Randeep Ramesh.

Local residents will this week seek judicial review of the refusal by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to grant a public inquiry into the £60m development, set to be built on the site of the Crystal Palace in south London.

The proposal for a new 4,000-seat multiplex cinema on the site of the Victorian original - burnt down in 1936 - was given the green light by councillors in Bromley last week. The attraction could see up to 90,000 visitors a week to the area - which campaigners say would cause traffic chaos.

Local residents are furious the scheme will not be open to scrutiny. The developers intend to drive a road through the

park, which is both Grade II-listed and a conservation area.

Campaigners against the cinema complex say the site is "metropolitan open land" and thus protected by the Government's strategic guidance for London. This states: "Land of this importance should not be used for developments which compromise its open character and value to London's green setting."

John Payne, chairman of the Crystal Palace Campaign, said: "There has been scant consideration to the traffic problems that would be generated by the cinema. The roads are already jammed and there will be thousands of extra cars using them with the multiplex."

"The site will also lose 100 mature trees and local businesses fear they will lose out because the council wants to turn the surrounding roads into no parking areas. The only option is a judicial review."

The council is facing an in-

creasing band of objectors. It has received a petition with more than 5,000 signatures and a public meeting this week should attract hundreds.

However, Bromley council is determined that the project opens in 2000. "It is part of a regeneration package which includes landscaping Crystal Palace park and re-developing the sports stadium," said David Bartlett, the council's deputy chief executive.

The council, which will receive a "premium" of £6m for the site, points out that the development will create 1,000 new jobs in the area. "We will be spending £5m in transport arrangements - including a new bus terminal," added Mr Bartlett.

This argument satisfied Mr Prescott. His officials successfully argued that the "wider regeneration context" and public transport provision meant the Deputy Prime Minister should not intervene.

## Roads in worst condition ever

By David Walker  
Social Policy Editor

THE roads and pavements of England and Wales are in their "worst" condition since records began. The 1997 National Road Maintenance Condition Survey compiled jointly by the Government and councils noted a "marked deterioration" last year over the state in 1996.

The survey is based on council officers touring a sample of

the roads and pavements in town and country and recording their visual impressions - whether surfaces are uneven or potholed.

Not all roads are getting worse. All-purpose trunk roads improved "visually" last year, although the surveyors note engineering evidence that their underlying condition is also worsening. Local and minor roads looked worse. Inspectors saw that the condition of pave-

ments and roadside footways declined sharply, with - as the bureaucrats put it - an increased incidence of severe unevenness. This means that people are more likely to trip up.

This survey has been carried out since the late Seventies and this finding accords with the decision in many councils in recent years to cut their spending on maintenance of roads and pavements in order to protect their social services and schools.

## 'Sunspot Bug' may disrupt satellites in 2000

By Charles Arthur  
Science and Technology Editor

ORBITING communications and television satellites could suffer a "Sunspot Bug" along with the Millennium Bug in 2000. British scientists warned yesterday.

Transatlantic telephone lines might go dead and satellite television channels black out as the chips on satellites are bombarded with electrons thrown out by vast tornadoes on the Sun's surface, intensified by a peak in the number of dark sunspots.

Observations by the Soho satellite, which studies the atmosphere of the Sun, show that the number of sunspots will hit a 10-year peak in 2000 - just as computers on Earth are struggling with the changeover to a new millennium.

Sunspots, which are cooler areas on the Sun's surface, cause solar storms which in turn lead to increased emissions from the Sun of charged particles which are flung out into space. When these reach the Earth they can disrupt sensitive chips, because they set up electromagnetic fields that interfere with the tiny flows of electricity inside the circuits.

During the last sunspot maximum between 1989 and 1991, solar storms were blamed for power failures and damage to several satellites. "Since then the human species has become more dependent on satellites and computers, and advanced microchips are more vulnerable to the Sun's electromagnetic effects and particles," said Richard Harrison, a principal investigator of the effects.

Soho - the Solar Heliospheric Observatory spacecraft, located one million miles from the Earth - has also discovered that the Sun's surface is buffeted by tornadoes, with "winds" travelling at 310,000 miles per hour. "The tornadoes" consist of superheated gases at 250,000°C, which mainly collect at the poles, from which they pour into space.

"We see the hot gas in the tornadoes spiralling away from the Sun and gathering speed," said David Pike of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK, who is co-discoverer of the solar tornadoes with Helen Mason of Cambridge University.

"These spectacular events in the Sun's atmosphere must have widespread effects."

## Space calling Wales

AFTER Neil Armstrong's "one small step" on the Moon 29 years ago, space buffs were yesterday presented with another extra terrestrial "first" when words of Welsh reached Earth from outer space, writes Tony Heath.

Dr Dafydd Rhys Williams, an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, linked up with the BBC Wales television programme *Wales Today* to send messages in the ancient tongue back to his homeland.

His family emigrated to Canada from Bargoed in South Wales, but always retained an affection for the old country.

That was heightened last year when pupils from Stanwell school in Penarth visited Houston, Texas, where Dr Williams was training for the mission which blasted off on 17 April.

He learnt Welsh from tapes supplied by the BBC so that he could use the language when contacting Earth. An enthusiast for all things Celtic his kit aboard *Columbia* includes a Welsh Dragon flag and the cap awarded to Gareth Edwards for his 50th appearance for Wales in a rugby international.

Dr Williams told viewers that after blast off the crew members produced pocket mirrors so that they could look back through overhead windows and see the Earth getting smaller and smaller. "Eight minutes later, we were orbiting the Earth at 25 times the speed of sound. It's absolutely amazing," he told *Wales Today's* reporter, Amanda Powell.

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# New look for France's farming heartland

John Lichfield examines a plan to reverse the emptying and pollution of the countryside with measures to support the small, family-sized producer

THIRTY years ago there were 3,000,000 farms in France. There are now fewer than 200,000 and fewer every month. In a national state of depopulation from Belgium to the south, almost all the small villages are dying. By 2020, 1,000,000 more farms and villages are expected to disappear in the next 20 years.

After paying up subsidies to the countryside, Paris is now planning to reverse decades of policy in an attempt to stop or at least slow down the emptying and the increasing pollution of the countryside. The Agriculture Minister, Louis Le Penec, has finalised plans to shift policy away from its 30-year obsession with increased productivity and bulk exports. A proposed framework law, circulated to unions and others this week, says policies of the future should be based on environmental and social, as well as economic, considerations.

Farmers would be encouraged to take out "contracts" with the state; the level of their subsidies would depend on their contribution to preserving nature, the creation of jobs and improvement of food quality. Farm subsidies, partly funded by the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), would no longer be automatic or encourage greater and greater output.

The law would also create new planning procedures to discourage the swallowing up of smaller, family-size farms into agri-industrial behemoths. All this represents a considerable earthquake in French farm policy - and farm politics. Paris has been devoted since the mid-1960s to promoting France as one of the world's great mass-producers and exporters of food as well as the leading producer of high-quality and high-price foods and wines.

The new approach is recognition that the future of rural

France, socially, ecologically, and economically, will be better served by concentrating on the second, not the first. It is partly a response to growing public disquiet - especially in northern France and Brittany - about the ecological damage from intensive, chemically dependent farming methods. It is also a reaction to the BSE crisis and the growing interest of

many villages and small towns have been kept alive by jobs in nearby cities. France is big and relatively empty; it has thousands of small, isolated communities. Across a large swath of the country nothing can replace agriculture if such communities are to survive. The old philosophy of productivity at all costs has been driven by the farm unions, traditionally dom-

Now you see that only the big cereal growers are protesting... We have argued for years that our future must be rooted in traditional methods, high added value and good-quality produce."

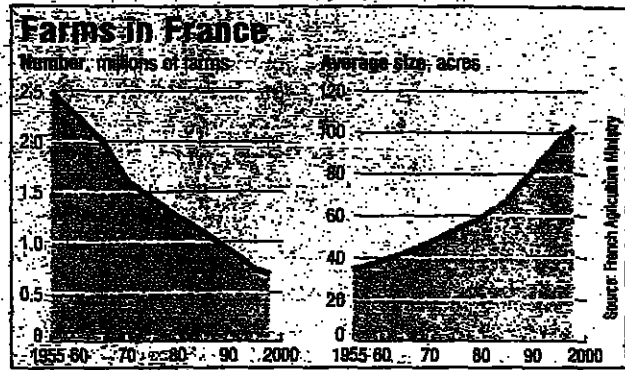
Others are more suspicious. Joël Bialoux is a local official of the young farmers' union in Creuse, central France. He farms organic, grass-fed beef on 375 acres near Aubusson. As recently as 1980 his farm was 11 different farms. It now counts as an average-to-large family farm of the kind the new plan is supposed to help.

Mr Bialoux says Mr Le Penec's idea is "fine... as long as it is not taken too far. I don't want to become a gardener or a park-keeper... I'm not interested in being here just to maintain the countryside in the way townspeople and tourists think it should look."

The new approach is, in part, recognition that changes in world trade policy and budgetary and political pressures in Brussels make the old form of CAP untenable. The French proposals fit the philosophy of a new round of farm-policy reforms planned by the European Commission - except in one crucial respect. Brussels wants to slash - even further than it already has - the level of price support: the artificial price at which the EU intervenes to prop up the market.

The commission believes that new, direct aids, based on environmental or social considerations, should compensate farmers for lower prices.

The government and all the farm unions are terrified by the prospect of a free, or freer, market in food. They say lower basic food prices in Europe would undermine the new drive to quality and ecologically friendly methods. They would make it even harder to persuade consumers to pay a premium for "naturally" produced food.



**The old philosophy of productivity at all costs has been driven by the farm unions**

consumers in the methods used in food production.

But the switch is, first and foremost, belated recognition of the plight of smaller, family farms, whose interests have been trampled by the Paris - and Brussels - obsession with publicly subsidised productivity at the expense of quality and markets. While everyone accepts the peasant-scale agriculture which survived in France until the 1960s was doomed, even the larger, modernised holdings are having difficulty surviving in the central, hill-farming areas and parts of the north-east and south.

In more thickly populated countries such as Britain or Ger-

many, villages and small towns have been kept alive by jobs in nearby cities. France is big and relatively empty; it has thousands of small, isolated communities. Across a large swath of the country nothing can replace agriculture if such communities are to survive. The old philosophy of productivity at all costs has been driven by the farm unions, traditionally dom-

In recent years this approach has been fiercely contested, within the unions themselves, by the representatives of smaller, family-scale farms.

The unions' reaction to the proposals has, therefore, been surprisingly muted to positive - so far.

Pierre-André Deplaude, secretary-general of a rival, small farmers' organisation, the Confédération Paysanne, is delighted with the approach. He said yesterday: "If Mr Le Penec had suggested this 10 years ago there would have been revolution in rural France."



Pressing problem: Up to 200,000 more French farms will go in the next 20 years

Photograph: Adam Woolfitt

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**KUT** — The tops of the tombstones are still just visible above the slimy green water. A broken cement pipe sticks out of a mud

**KUT** — The tops of the tombstones are still just visible above the slimy green water. A broken cement pipe sticks out of a mud

ing to local people. The grave- fill with cement.

Many of these were killed in

Many of these were killed in



Photograph: Imperial War Museum

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# Kosovo

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**to war**

**By Steve Crawshaw**



Mr. Gal- in the next few weeks.

**By Phil Davison**  
Latin America Correspondent

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# Toxic disaster will blight Spanish park for decade

By Elizabeth Nash  
Seville

EXPERTS responsible for Spain's Doñana national park insisted yesterday that the catastrophe inflicted on the UN-protected wetlands by a flood of toxic mining waste at the weekend is far worse than the authorities admit. With rain lashing the area, they fear the residue, laden with lead, arsenic, cyanide and other metals, will permeate the area and blight it for decades.

A principal underground water channel that serves the nature reserve - crucial for the park's ecological balance - has been contaminated, and the effects could last 30 years, according to Miguel Ferrer, Director of the Doñana Biological Station, who leads a team of scientific researchers in the park. "The Doñana has not been saved. Government assurances are over-optimistic. This is a disaster without precedent," he said yesterday.

"Aquifer 27, on which most of the flora and fauna of the reserve and local agriculture depends, has been af-

fectured. We are awaiting data on the intensity and speed at which the toxic material is seeping through."

Just as serious, Dr Ferrer said, was a swath of deadly sludge 20km by 400m that skirts the wetlands. "I'm particularly worried about the mercury that's been spilled. It's a very stable element whose effects last for decades. With the constant rains, the poisons are leaking slowly into the park. The Doñana is not a closed system, and the birds do not respect administrative boundaries."

Thousands of mud-drenched corpses of fish, shrimps and crabs have started to appear throughout the route along which the torrent of black mud cascaded at the weekend on its 60km journey to the sea. Park-keepers were yesterday engaged in the unusual activity of firing bullets on the fringes of the wetlands, to frighten the geese, ducks and flamingoes into the heart of the park and prevent them feeding on dead fish impregnated with heavy metals and acidic poison.

Greenpeace has moored a protest boat in the mouth of the Guadalquivir,

near Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and is investigating the damage. "The park is surrounded by deadly toxins," Juan Lopez, director of Greenpeace's campaign against anti-toxic waste, said from the boat. "This makes government claims that the Doñana has been saved an unbelievably optimistic analysis. What's happened is they've sacrificed the whole ecosystem surrounding the Doñana so that they can say they've saved the park."

The park director, Alberto Ruiz de Larramendi, insists the area surrounding the reserve must be urgently cleaned to prevent the destruction of its function as a protective buffer zone for the wetlands. He was particularly worried that waters now gushing into the sea at the Guadalquivir estuary were not strongly polluted. "This means that the poisons have been deposited in the soil. Apart from the immediate impact... what worries me more is that because we have diverted the course of the contaminated Guadamar river, the Doñana can no longer receive water from it and it will be constantly under-watered."



Dust to dust: The 17-storey Aladdin Hotel and Casino - where Elvis and Priscilla Presley were married in 1967 - on the Las Vegas Strip, Nevada, imploding to make way for a \$1.3bn (£778m) mega-resort.  
Photograph: Ethan Miller/Reuters

## Belgian PM survives no-confidence vote

By Katherine Butler  
Brussels

THE Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene survived a no-confidence vote last night after sacking the country's chief of police to calm the public outcry following the escape of the child rapist and multiple murder suspect Marc Dutroux.

Mr Dehaene rescued his coalition after announcing to parliament that the head of the Gendarmerie, Willy Derudder, had agreed to "accept his responsibility" for police blunders which allowed Dutroux to dash from an unlocked court building waving a gun last Thursday.

Awaiting trial for the abduction and rape of six young girls and the murders of four of them, Dutroux was recaptured but only after the car he had hijacked was spotted by a forest ranger when it got stuck in mud.

Mr Dehaene said there would have to be a "change of mentality" at the heart of the police and judiciary and he promised to push through an

emergency package of reforms.

Bungling incompetence and internal feuds in the country's three police forces helped Dutroux to go undetected for several years. Reforms were promised in November 1996 after 300,000 people protested at the failures of the justice system, but have fallen victim to political wrangling.

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday as several hundred protesters marched from the main law courts clamouring for more heads to roll. The justice and interior ministers resigned within hours of the Dutroux escape but it became inevitable that the country's top policeman would also have to go.

But on the eve of Belgium's selection as a founder member of the European single currency, Mr Dehaene warned backbench MPs in the ruling parties against plunging the country into elections. He reminded MPs that the single currency was "the most important decision for Europe and for our country since the creation of the EU".

## Kremlin's thirtysomethings

PRESIDENT Yeltsin took a step towards fulfilling his desire to ensure Russia is run by a younger generation by reinstating Boris Nemtsov, 38, as Deputy Prime Minister together with a government economist, Viktor Khristenko, 40. They will be the two most senior figures in the new Cabinet under the freshly confirmed Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, 35.  
— Phil Reeves, Moscow

## Britain on the fringe

IN A MOVE highlighting Britain's marginalisation from the single-currency inner circle, Austria is to convene the first meeting of the Euro-X grouping of Euro-zone finance ministers on 4 June. Britain does not relinquish the EU presidency until July but monetary-union countries want to see the new body in place as soon as possible after the 2 May summit to launch the currency merger.  
— Katherine Butler, Brussels

## Abacha foes sentenced

A NIGERIAN tribunal sentenced military ruler Sani Abacha's former deputy and four others to death for plotting to overthrow him. The military tribunal, which has been sitting in secret at the central town of Jos, said 30 people had been tried for treason including Nigeria's former number two, Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya.  
— Reuters, Jos

## Lewinsky wets appetite

MONICA LEWINSKY, the former White House trainee who allegedly had an affair with President Clinton, has posed for *Vanity Fair* "frolicking" in the surf of Malibu beach and wearing not very much except a little black dress.  
— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

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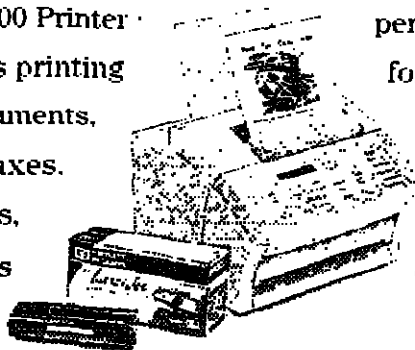


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# Singing it again with meaning

Producer Garth Drabinsky tells Stephen Gilbert why his version of 'Show Boat' isn't a revival but a restoration of a masterpiece of musical theatre which isn't afraid to explore its serious themes

PRODUCERS come in many guises. The proverbial ones are megalomaniacal mandarins who brook no unbidden opinion. The ones that the business adores are enablers who hand pick teams and then stand back and trust them to make the best of it. But, of course, the best producers of all are the successful ones.

"That's a great question," growls Garth Drabinsky gruffly when I ask him whether he isn't a writer-cum-director who expresses his creativity through collaboration with others. A legend on Broadway, he brings to London a reputation as the most hands-on of all producers of musicals.

"I never meddle," he says, "and I know, like a good fighter, when to retreat into the corner and get words of comfort from my trainer. What I do, I hope, is to compel powerful collaborations to happen. I'm a catalyst. I'm not a frustrated writer and I'm not a frustrated director, although Hal Prince is convinced that one day I will direct and I keep saying to him that I'm real happy doing what I do. I can use a director's eye from a certain vantage-point when I have to, but I hope that my ideas are persuasive and cultured enough that I've won the respect of my collaborators."

This does not come across as false modesty. Drabinsky is a serious man in a field full of bluff, fakery and fulsomeness. He is here with his revival of *Show Boat*, the first unmistakable masterpiece of the Broadway genre known as the musical play. Originally mounted at the end of 1927, it is a show renowned for its score, both haunting and rousing, by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II; for its striking setting of a Mississippi pleasure cruiser of the 1890s; and for its bold secondary plot, behind the central love story, about miscegenation. At the moment of the centenary of Paul Robeson's birth, *Show Boat* is perhaps widest known for the song that became Robeson's signature tune - and Kern's, too - "Ol' Man River".

*Show Boat* is rarely out of the repertoire. Revived a dozen times in New York - and in London in 1943, 1971 and (by way of an RSC/Opera North touring co-production) 1990 - it is only exceeded in its proneness to be added to, subtracted from and tinkered with by Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*.

Drabinsky saw Ian Fudge's 1990 version and was determined to take another shot in North America "but in a way that had never been done before". He figured that if he could negotiate the licence from the Kern and Hammerstein estates and "enforce the perfect director, Hal Prince, to do the only revival of his long career, then I would have a chance of doing something special that would see the work find a whole new generation, which I believe it deserves".

With Eugene Lee, Prince made a survey of the versions of the show's book and reconstructed what may come to be the definitive version. The famous John McGlum recording of a decade ago ruled sternly on those numbers that should and should not make up a full score. "We think we've found the right assemblage of music from the various manifestations to project the story along properly," is how Drabinsky puts it.

But why now? "We're approaching the end of the century," he says. "This show begins at the latter end of the 19th century but the second act takes place in the 20th century, up until 1927. What fascinated me was the fact that Hammerstein was so bold in confronting the ills of society, especially in the form of racism, at such a tender date in his career, if you will, and in the embryonic stages of musical theatre per se."

"So few people since then have had the courage to deal with social complexity and divisiveness in such a powerful way. I was fascinated to see that a century has gone by [since the beginnings of the show's story] and, guess what, things haven't changed too much. That's an interesting piece of reflection to take towards a new century. So, Drabinsky's purpose is not just to



reproduce past success but to rediscover its true value. "Oh yeah," he says. "Reviving means nothing to me, restoration means everything. Taking a 1998 sensibility and availing myself of the technology of the day to re-examine brilliant musical scores and storytelling but with much more daring. If you will, to go deeper than the tentative approach to musical theatre that is still there. I don't believe you should pull punches. You should go for it when you have the opportunity to go for it."

This is not to suggest that Broadway has found a big-time producer with a radical political agenda, although remembering the civil rights marches of his student days,

Drabinsky's espousal of racial equality is no expedient stance for marketing purposes. "There is something personal in everything you do in the arts," he says. "You can't be a soulless man. And you can say a lot in musical theatre, more than has been said so far. And, maybe, with greater potency than people think. Musicals surely should entertain and, God knows, I want that to happen. But storytelling to engage an audience can't just be a fairytale, can't always be a romantic moment between two sympathetic souls. If you have the ability to layer a work and if it has an historical context and you can investigate the politics and the sociology of the time, then I think you have

the basis of a great evening of theatre." Accordingly, Drabinsky has John Guare working on a new version of Rodgers and Hart's *Pail Joey* that explores its context - the debate about American isolationism and whether war with Hitler should be joined - to reinforce the isolation of John O'Hara's dubious hero. *Ragtime*, currently a Broadway hit and set to follow *Show Boat* at the Prince Edward, will be joined by a new musical, *Parade*, which confronts anti-semitism and will complete what Drabinsky thinks of as his trilogy of musicals about the American century.

So, here we have a producer who means business. Having built his career through

showbiz law (he literally wrote the book) and movie exhibitions in his native Canada, Drabinsky has become a major player in American theatre. He is engagingly candid about his set-backs: he was thrown out of Cineplex, the film company he built; and childhood polio has left him with a ferocious limp and a back condition that can immobilise him for days. But he is fierce on behalf of what may prove a whole new field - a musical theatre rich in ideas, not just emotion. Sir Cameron Mackintosh may be looking to his laurels. *Show Boat* is at the Prince Edward Theatre, London W1.

All-singing all-dancing scenes from Drabinsky's West End production of 'Show Boat', which aims to put the musical in its social context

Photographs: Geraint Lewis

## BBC's golden age finally goes on the fictional record

Robert Hanks finds that Stephen Poliakoff's new play about the BBC, 'Talk of the City', is one of surprisingly few pieces about such an influential national institution

THE ORIGINAL idea was to use Stephen Poliakoff's new play, *Talk of the City*, which deals with the BBC in the run up to the Second World War, as the excuse for a piece about how the BBC has been represented in novels, plays and films.

Just off the top of my head, it would mention Penelope Fitzgerald's novel *Human Voices*, that hoary old film *Death at Broadcasting House*, and the question of how far the Ministry of Truth in *Nineteen Eighty-four* drew on George Orwell's wartime experience as a BBC employee. And, presumably, plenty of other stuff would turn up. No such luck, though.

The most important cultural institution in this country has hardly been written about. John Freston's novel *Ghosting* was set in the early days of the corporation, and there are novels where characters give radio talks. (There is a scene in the Powell and Pressburger film *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* where General Wynne Candy is prevented from giving a radio talk.) There must be other examples, but the fact remains that there is a gap in the fossil record of literature.

On a brute, practical level, the BBC has been a cultural patron on a scale that makes the Medici look like a gang of philistine tight-wads. It has commissioned music, poetry, and plays from some of the greatest artists of the century (Elgar's *Third Symphony*, the one that has just been aired in Anthony Payne's version, was a BBC commission; so was *Under Milk Wood*; Harold Pin-

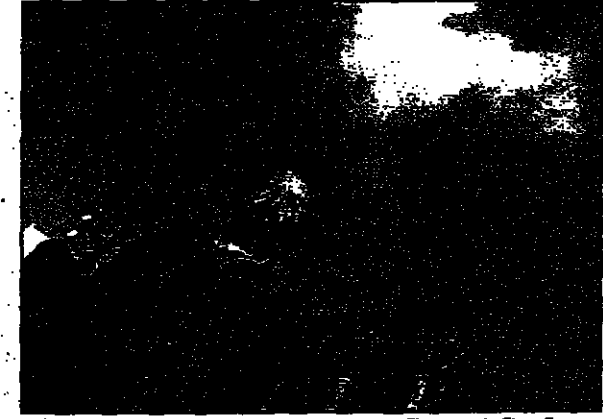
ter, Samuel Beckett and Tom Stoppard all took the shilling at some point). Most writers you can think of have kept their heads above water by giving talks, writing little radio plays, abridging novels. You would expect a few of them to have turned the experience to account.

The BBC has such symbolic possibilities. It is organised as a very pure form of bureaucracy; any creative output has always had to burrow its way to daylight through a mated undergrowth of forms and procedures.

It embodies the clash between high cultural tradition and modern populism (as observed in Radio 3's continuing efforts to attract bigger ratings). In the 1980s it seemed to embody the dilemma of liberal Britain, trying to keep its ideals afloat in a tidal wash of consumerism.

The BBC has penetrated life to such a vast extent, it's hard to think of a single institution that has influenced national consciousness to such an extent. From it has derived a rich common stock of jokes, catchphrases, clichés, images. The wonder is not so much why writers haven't written about it, but how they have been able to avoid it.

All of these themes, and a few more, are tackled in *Talk of the City*. The play is set at what Poliakoff reckons was "the most powerful moment at the BBC, probably, just before the War - just because of the technology, so many people had this one instrument in the home". (The period was characterised in Asa Briggs' official history of



Photograph: Piers Benatar

On a brute, practical level, the BBC has been a cultural patron on a scale that makes the Medici look like a gang of philistine tight-wads

the organisation as "The Golden Age of Wireless").

Robbie, the play's central character, is host of a variety programme called "Friday Night at Eight", closely modelled on the real-life *Monday Night at Seven*; music, painter, pre-scripted interviews, a detective story.

Robbie's flair for improvisation places him at odds with the Corporation's rigid approach. Poliakoff places him "in a line that led to Kenny Everett and Chris Evans: anarchic, intelligent people that have a strong streak of self-preservation in them". It also gets him involved with Clive, a senior producer who wants to exploit his talents to alert

people to the plight of Jews in Germany.

The genesis of the play, Poliakoff says, lies in three things - a question, a coincidence and an image. The image - borrowed from *Death at Broadcasting House* - was of showgirls in full, glittering costumes lined up in front of a microphone, dressed to the nines for an audience that can't see them. The play contrasts this rehearsed opulence, and the venerability that the BBC had acquired within a few years of starting up, with the experimental poverty of the infant medium of television, a place where you could afford to mess around because virtually nobody was watching.

The coincidence, Poliakoff says, was that "Orson Welles's *War of the Worlds* - which is still I think the most famous media event of the century - happened within five or six weeks of Munich and 10 days before Kristallnacht... If you can terrify the whole of America about an invasion from outer space, you could involve them in what was actually happening in Europe. The huge power of this instrument."

"As a child I remember asking my parents, did you know what was happening in Europe? How much was said? - that is, how much was said before the Second World War about what the Nazis were doing to the Jews. The BBC broadcast some talks on the subject, but not very many and not of great depth or seriousness."

Poliakoff cites a memo of the period written by John Coatsman, senior news editor, who said that the Corporation "had taken part in a conspiracy of silence". Humphrey Carpenter's history of the Third Programme, *The Envy of the World*, cites an anecdote about the director-general, Frederick Ogilvie, suggesting that Germany could be persuaded to stop persecuting the Jews if the BBC broadcast the celebrated recording of Beatrice Harrison playing the cello in a wood full of nightingales - an incident Poliakoff left out of his play because he felt it was too Monty Pythonish.

What gives *Talk of the City* its punch, though, is simply the lowering presence of the BBC. The picture of good old Aun-

tie Beeb keeping a stiff upper lip and a cheeky twinkle in her eye during the darkest hours of the Blitz is one the Corporation relishes; at other times, as Poliakoff demonstrates, it has been better characterised by its

muddle, snobbery and complacency.

But doesn't this remind you of something else? Doesn't it remind you, just a little bit, of a country you live in? Whatever you think of the BBC, good or

bad, it is the broadcaster that we deserve.

*'Talk of the City'* is at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. For tickets and information, call 01789 295623.

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## Doesn't suit you, sir



Hardy Amies, by appointment to her Majesty the Queen, despairs at the state of menswear today. The 88-year-old explains to Robin Dutt why gentlemen and fashion are incompatible.

SOMETHING is rotten in the state of menswear. And Sir Hardy Amies thinks he just might have the antidote. Attractive though sex is as a pastime, and increasingly, an advertising ploy, it may be that we have overdosed on too much bare flesh or more precisely, honed muscle which sends even the most rational man rushing to the mirror to check his wares. Today, if it's not Gucci or Prada, it's nada in the menswear stakes. Their brand of erotic minimalism – chifon briefs and torso-torturing T-shirts – are the dernier cri for men of every persuasion.

But Sir Hardy cannot get a handle – love or otherwise on this new vogue. His point is that menswear has to be appropriate at all times – elegant, functional and of service to the wearer. Sitting in his office eyrie, the carpet stamped throughout the House with his initials – HA HA running like a mischievous laugh – he has, he feels every right to pronounce on the state of menswear. He has just given a talk about the future of men's clothes to an assembled group of worthies and his stance is rigid to the point of snapping.

It seems that for Hardy, in business since 1934, menswear has made the mistake of being part of the fashion machine. "Fashion in menswear is a contradiction in terms," he says. "I make clothes for gentlemen and gentlemen do not want to look as though they are on a catwalk." Well, to see the pleasure many males take as they parade down the street, the opposite might be true. But then, Sir Hardy is not talking about many males. He is talking about those with "class". And now, we're into deep water where political correctness drowns in five seconds. Sir Hardy bangs on about class like many others trumpet human rights.

The sort of class Sir Hardy is keen on does not necessarily depend on vast quantities of cash. "My clothes are part of an investment wardrobe," asserts Sir Hardy, today impressive in midnight blue blazer and grey flannels. "The whole business should be about helping a man build a wardrobe that has something for every occasion."

Other designers, it seems, get it so wrong. "Never wear shoes with metal on them," he barks. "Dyed grey is a horror and please – no genital buttons on a coat." He regards Edwardian formality as the only way to dress. His philosophy is based on one button – that exactly on the waist. The rest of the suit follows from that central point.

Millennium style for Hardy Amies is, in short, not so dissimilar to that at the end of the last decade. Based solidly on tradition we have Edwardian Ghillie-collar five buttoned jackets, sleek trousers and ties that are very well-behaved. But there are surprises too from menswear director Ian Garlant – expect to be able to order long sweeping alpaca coats, chamol jeans and even a leather frockcoat.

## OUT OF THE CLOSET

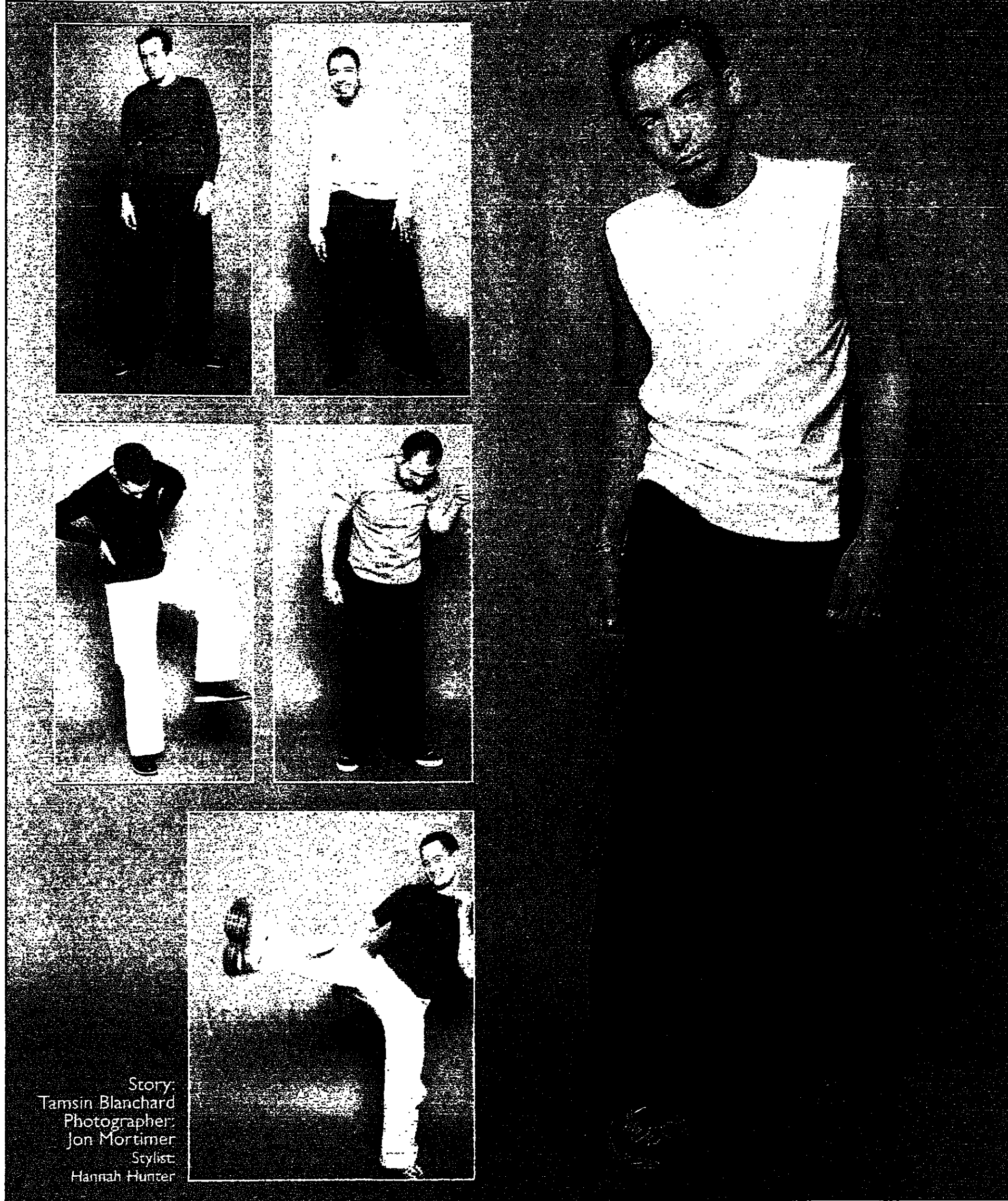


Trevor Sorbie, the celebrity hairdresser, confesses to having a 'thing' about black and also reveals his biggest fashion mistake.

"Black is my favourite colour when it comes to buying clothes. In my opinion it is the most fashionable colour. I think it does favours for people, it always looks chic, is slimming, and never really dates. I have loads of black Issey Miyake suits, which I use for stage presentations and TV appearances. I'm not really a suit person, but I find a suit prevents me from looking like a wimp. When I'm in the salon, however, I generally wear black jeans and T-shirts. I like to keep the atmosphere nice and relaxed, there is nothing more terrible than going to a hairdressers and feeling intimidated the moment you walk through the door."

My biggest fashion blunder is a Hawaiian shirt that I bought in Bali. It's incredibly bright, a mixture of blues, greens and oranges. It looked great when I wore it in Bali, but it just didn't work in London. I felt a bit of a prat wearing it, so I'm saving it for the next time I go to a location where I can blend in. The other thing still in my wardrobe after almost 29 years, is a crocodile-skin studded belt, that I used to wear in my teens. I'm afraid it doesn't even fit me now, but at the time it cost £100, which was three wage packets, and for almost that reason alone, I'll never throw it out."

Kate Lloyd



Story:  
Tamsin Blanchard  
Photographer:  
Jon Mortimer  
Stylist:  
Hannah Hunter

## Wide boys wear the trousers

HAVE you got your tape measure ready? Then we'll begin. Measure the circumference of your trousers around the ankle. If they are less than 16 inches, you haven't been paying attention. If they measure 20 inches or over, you either have your tape measure on the pulse, or your wardrobe went into sartorial freeze: in 1974. You see, the width of your trousers – if you are male that is – is a talking point again.

"We've moved on from last season's kick leg trousers. Now we're into parallels," says Nick Walker, casualwear buyer at Harvey Nichols. "They're long, wide and the same width all over. How wide? At least 24 inches. Ann Demeulemeester has done really wide ones, but you've got to be a six-footer to wear them. Don't think flares, though. Think relaxed." And think Dolce e Gabbana. (26 inches) Dries Van Noten (31.5 inches) and Prada whose trousers come in three different widths this season.

Wider legs have been billowing about on the catwalks for the past three seasons. It's not so much retro this time as about balance and proportion, although John Rocha for one took inspiration for his collection from George Best circa 1972, full feather-cut and all. But finally, the wide leg has made it off the catwalk, into the high street, and if sales are to be believed, onto the bottoms of men up and down the country. The fit of these trousers is quite precise. This is not just a case of digging out your old Northern Soul strides.

The new flare fits snugly around the bottom rather like last season's flat-fronts and they flare from the thigh, the same width all the way down. They should fall to the floor, covering your shoes, rather like an elephant's foot. The shoes should have no more of a platform than the average pair of trainers. They are more Cary Grant than Bay City Rollers. Most fashion trends for women are designed for the six-

foot giant. For once, here is a trend that is equally unkind to men. Ideally, you should be six-foot six, and you should have a perfectly formed, perier-than-pert derriere. According to Nick Sullivan, associate editor of *Arena*, your upper body should be bigger than your bum. "I can't wear them," says Sullivan, who is six foot. "They make me look about four-foot tall. You need to be lean."

Chris Bailey, head of design for Jigsaw Menswear, has plumped squarely for the parallel option this season. "We introduced them with a drawstring last summer and with a 24-inch hem in flannel for last autumn," he says. Most customers are getting used to the new shape quite quickly. "They're easy to wear with trainers and a T-shirt," says Bailey although he is also trying to introduce a new-style suit for summer: a fitted short-sleeve shirt with the trousers all in the same fabric. "These are not high waisted at all. They're semi-hipsters." Bailey puts the new trend down to a reaction against the narrow, mod suits that have been dominating fashion in the mid-Nineties. "This is a more relaxed look. You can chuck on a pair of looser fitting trousers and wear them with a slim-fit T-shirt."

The time is right. "Two years ago, we couldn't have sold them," he says. Now the stores from Manchester to Covent Garden can't stock up fast enough. And if you can't quite stomach the idea of venturing forth in a pair of parallel slacks, don't worry. By autumn, Jigsaw will have moved onto a new shape. According to Chris Bailey they are "wide but very short, about 6 inches above the ankle". It would appear choosing a pair of trousers has become a matter of geometry. Once you've stood in front of the mirror and sized up your physique, not to mention the shape of your behind, you are ready to go shopping. Don't forget your tape measure.

Mark Hayman, 28, designer, top left. Wear different things to work, from jogging bottoms to suits. Trousers quite cool but wouldn't buy them because mates would take the piss out of me – they're too camp. Maybe wear in evening more than day.

Navy wide-leg linen trousers, £76, from Jigsaw; as before; blue t-shirt, £35, Muji; as before; trainers models own.

Mustapha Merzouk, 35, manager of Joe's Café, top right. Wears Joseph suits for work. Likes 70s style, would buy them, though wouldn't have picked this outfit: "I wouldn't normally buy these, but after trying them, I feel more comfortable in this style."

Viscose cream sweater, £119 Nicole Farhi; Charcoal linen trousers, £225, Dries Van Noten at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1, 0171-584 0011; shoes, model's own.

Nick, photographer, 30, centre left. "For work, I wear any trousers or T-shirts that are clean. I would wear trousers this wide, although they are out of my price range. Liked the fit and cut."

Grey brushed-cotton t-shirt, £34, Jigsaw, 27 Brook Street, London W1, 0171-

499 2521; Navy linen trousers, £165, Dolce e Gabbana, from Harvey Nichols, as before, trainers model's own.

John Harrison, black and white processor, 29, centre right and bottom. Wouldn't wear white D&G trousers – a bit too camp. Normally wears baggy trousers, but not as wide as these. Preferred the wider D&G fit to the Jigsaw ones.

White sailor-style cotton trousers, £140, Dolce e Gabbana, as before; Navy ribbed cotton top, £35, Muji, 187 Oxford Street London W1, enquiries 0171-437 7503; sandals by Clon, £110, from Jones, 13 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DH, enquiries 0171 240 8312.

Cream chino-style trousers, £79, Jigsaw, as before; brown t-shirt, £49, Nicole Farhi, as before; models own trainers.

Jason Morais, 27, artist relations manager, main picture. I never wear baggy trousers. In this outfit I feel like a Madonna dancer from the "Express Yourself" tour.

Grey pinstripe linen trousers, £225, Dolce e Gabbana, as before; sleeveless white top, £30, by dust from Burro, 19a Floral Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DS; trainers model's own.

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# Life with the Only Ones

In China, the policy of only allowing one child per family is being relaxed. In Britain and the West, a single child is becoming the norm. Glenda Cooper reports

CHIESEACLINTON is not just the First Child, but the Only Child, too. So were Enoch Powell, Norma Major, and Sandra Shaw. There are now 2.75m single offspring in our country, according to the 1991 Census, and recent figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal that two-parent families are now more likely to have only children than ever before.

But what is the effect of being a Little Emperor in your own home, cosseted and cherished by doting parents? In China, which has 65m only children, thanks to its one-child-per-family policy, the first generation of single Chinese children is attaining its majority – the policy was introduced in 1979 – and experts have worried about creating a generation of spoilt and competitive children.

Now, just as our numbers

of only children increase, the Chinese have announced a formal relaxation of the one-child policy in a pilot programme in rural areas. Instead, family planning officials will try the gentler methods of education and persuasion as a means of encouraging voluntary contraceptive use and restricting the birth rate.

Little research has been done here on the consequences of growing up without siblings and their rivalries, and being put at the mercy of parents' hopes and ambitions. Only children are usually singletons for one of two reasons. The first is choice: their affluent parents decide not to have several offspring, because they don't want the cost or the pressures of child-rearing. The other is necessity: they really can't afford it or they have left having children so late in life

that they are unable to have more than one.

But studies indicate that only children do not communicate as well as other children. Dr Charles Lewis of the Department of Psychology at the University of Lancaster says: "Singletons have a smaller social network and they are not always very good at adapting themselves... Most have parent-centred lives. It may have prevented them realising what it is to be involved in social communications."

Matthew Brace, a travel writer, says he can spot an only child, with his or her confidence and self-assurance, anywhere. "They are sharp-witted, with a creative streak and tend to be dreamers." He is unequivocal about his own experience. "Given the choice, I wouldn't have been an only child. You feel desperately lonely; you are forced to make up your



Chelsea Clinton: First Child, only child

own games and adventures. I think that is why most only children I know are creative. The most painful thing of all is that when there are family troubles you've just got yourself and, as

any psychiatrist will tell you, there is only so much talking you should do to yourself. It can be a great burden."

Frank Gould (not his real name) disagrees. "I've never

regretted being an only child," he said. "You don't get all the tensions that you get with brothers and sisters, the sort of arguments you find as you get older about who is going to look after your parents. If there is more than two of you, I'm sure people gang up and bitch about each other."

He feels that he did not make friends to compensate for not having siblings; indeed, he revelled in the privacy it allowed him. "I liked never having to share my toys."

"The first-time parent may have a problem with confidence and have much more doubt about their ability to cope with children," says child expert Dr Richard Woolfson. "But I think only children develop very well now that parents are aware of the stereotypes. Most parents now say they are going to make damn sure their child doesn't have a

problem socialising when they start school.

"Certainly birth order is a significant determinant of personality because of the influence of early years up to five. It is a big factor because to have two children is still the norm."

Frank Sulloway is the author of *Born To Rebel*, which investigates the significance of birth order. As part of his research, he looked at studies of 1m subjects, leaving him to conclude that first-borns tend to be tough-minded and ambitious while conservative with a small 'c', whereas younger children tend to be more rebellious and radical in order to grab attention – the classic cases, he thinks, being Robespierre (first-born) and Danton (younger son).

"Only children occupy a niche in their family. There is no competition to explore, but that makes them more un-

predictable in psychological terms. They probably have more idiosyncrasy because they have the freedom to explore," he concludes.

Both Frank and Matthew agree: "I do think only children are more creative," says Matthew. "But it's because you are by yourself so you have to make up adventures or whatever to amuse yourself."

Frank thinks that only children do tend to be more intellectual. "I think they are more literary, certainly, because you read books rather than spend time fighting with brothers."

Asked whether they would worry about their own offspring being only children, both Matthew and Frank plumped for larger families. "I wouldn't want just one child," says Frank. "If I had kids, I'd never ever have an only child. I'd want three or four," adds Matthew.

## Who's who in the literary premiership

Ted Heath and John Major are completing their long-awaited political memoirs. They get the money, but what does the reader get? Sean O'Grady leafs through the pages

ONE of the longest careers in autobiographical history has drawn to a close. A few days ago, the final corrections were made to the manuscript of *The Course of My Life*, the memoirs of Sir Edward Heath. Almost a quarter of a century after he left Number 10, Ted will, at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth this October, launch a 650-page volume of political memoirs.

The 300,000+ words chronicle a long political career which began at Oxford in the 1930s, and we are promised "a revealing panoply of twentieth-century political, international and social history".

The former prime minister is said to have been writing his memoirs for many years. As long ago as 1985 he was promising to "spill every uncensored detail". A previous publisher's advance had been returned, and a project with the BBC a few years ago foundered (although there will be a television spin-off now). It has been suggested that one reason for the delay was that he could not come to terms with his losing the premiership and the leadership of his party. But the expectation that he should have written his version as soon as he left office is, in historical terms at least, unfounded.

The idea of a routine set of prime ministerial memoirs is relatively new. The very earliest example of the genre was a volume written by Sir Robert Peel who arranged for his book to be published after his death (which seems an awful long way round to avoid poor reviews). HH Asquith's was the first lengthy account, while Sir Winston Churchill wrote extensively (*My Early Life* is the only political memoir to have been made into a biopic, *Young Winston*). But all of our post-war leaders have or have promised to produce a set of memoirs varying from the very long (Eden, Macmillan) through long (Wilson, Thatcher) to relatively brief (Atlee, Home, Callaghan). As we look forward to Ted's this autumn and John Major's next year, we might look at previous forms to ask, are they worth writing? Can they be both?

The answer to the first question is "sometimes", the second, "yes" and the third "no". First



of this is my case. This can have a paranoid tinge. Harold Wilson wrote that "I did not want historians to have to rely on what they read in an entirely hostile set of newspapers. There was hardly a single editor or writer who had a clue about how government was run and I was intent that the record should be put straight". Despite, or possibly because of, the fact that former premiers are given privileged access to official papers from their time, while "proper" historians have to wait 30 years, they often commit sins of omission or commission that tend to cast doubt on the whole exercise.

Asquith's treatment of the struggle for votes for women (two pages in two volumes) reveals much about his attitude but is still a bit skimpy. In his chronicles of the last war, Churchill made no mention of Ultra, the code cracking device which helped the Allies in a number of crucial campaigns. Eden and Macmillan's accounts of their collusion with the Israelis. (Ted's forthcoming account will be the last of the players' versions of events). Mrs Thatcher's comprehensive-to-the-point-of-chronology *The Downing Street Years* doesn't spend much time on some of the juicier aspects of the Westland Affair that led to Michael Heseltine's (and nearly her own) resignation and misses out the Spycatcher affair entirely.

Generosity to former "colleagues" (especially to those still alive and thus with access to the libel courts) is also a general rule. However Margaret Thatcher's contain more straight put-downs than all the others put together. Although she could be kind to some – James Callaghan was a "brilliant opponent", she was not so to others, especially those she called "those grandees". "Michael Heseltine's sense of priorities was gravely distorted by his personal ambitions and political obsessions", Jim Prior was the "false squire", whilst "in following Peter Carrington with Francis Pym as Foreign Secretary I had exchanged an amusing whiff for a gloomy one".

But the nastiest handbagging is reserved for the grandest of the grandees. "I had no doubt

that Ted now ought to go. He had lost three elections out of four. He himself could not change and he was too defensive of his own past record to see that a fundamental change of policies was needed... Everyone except Ted knew that the main political problem was the fact that he was still leader."

Ted has had two years since this appeared in Margaret Thatcher's *The Path to Power*. He has no doubt a robust defence. But his timing also helps him here. When the last volume of Harold Macmillan's memoirs were published in 1973, ten years had passed since his resignation. The age of Supermac had attained a golden glow. People had forgotten the "sleaze" of Profumo and the failures of policy. Why? Because we were by then living through what felt like a much less successful period of Conservative government under

one Edward Heath. When in power he was seen as an abrasive, divisive, stubborn character.

But now, as with Macmillan's historical embarrassments, we seem inclined to only remember his administration kindly. There are few around now who remember or care much about bitter but obscure historical struggles like the Upper Clyde shipbuilders, the Clay Cross martyrs or even the three-day week. But they do just about know that he took us into Europe and, hard though it is for any of those who have endured his sometimes distant manner, he is "cuddly", like the pandas he used to bring back from China.

Most important of all, events in Europe have been moving inexorably Ted's way. Pressure of events may see us in the Euro before Ted is finished with the House of Com-



	Title	Success/reception	The exciting bits	Memory failure	Best put-down	Romance
<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<i>My Early Life 1930: History of the Second World War 1948-54</i>	Majestic, regarded as literature, but offended some (see Best put-down).	Escaping from a Boer POW camp and being wanted "dead or alive" with a price of £25 on his head.	Omits the "Ultra" code breaking system which helped to win the war.	Poles and Poland: "ingratitude over the centuries has led them through measureless suffering and too often led by the vilest of the vile".	"Events were soon to arise... which were to absorb my thoughts and energies until 1908, when I married and lived happily ever after."
<b>Clement Attlee</b>	<i>As It Happened 1954</i>	As dry and laconic as the man himself. Disappointed reviewers by revealing very little.	Labour's 1945 landslide and the dawn of the new Jerusalem – "quite an exciting day".	Terse about everything. Second World War (when he was deputy Prime Minister) gets just 30 pages.	On Ramsay MacDonald: "His habit of telling me the poor opinion he had of many of his Cabinet colleagues made an unpleasant impression."	Unexpectedly sweet if brief tale about courting Violet (a lifelong Tory) in Italy and Richmond Park.
<b>Alec Douglas-Home</b>	<i>The Way The Wind Blows 1976</i>	Surprisingly good, considering his reticence. As much about angling as politics.	Meeting Hitler. "I noticed that his arms swung low, almost to his knees. It gave him a curiously animal appearance."	The Suez affair. How he won the Tory leadership and became PM in 1963. No photograph of him with Neville Chamberlain.	"Enoch Powell had a fine mind which I flattered myself I could have harnessed to constructive policies. Perhaps I was wrong."	Married daughter of his headmaster at Eton. "We became engaged, having been to Epsom together and won the Tote double."
<b>Harold Wilson</b>	<i>The Labour Government 1964-70: A Personal Record 1971: Final Term 1979: The Making of a Prime Minister 1986</i>	David Dimbleby asked him about his money. Wilson demanded why he didn't interrogate Heath about where he got money for yachts.	Midnight car drive with Charles de Gaulle to try to secure British entry into Europe.	Nothing on security services' plots to oust him. Little explanation of Marcia Williams' influence.	"I was taking a risk with George Brown. It was not that he drank more than anyone else but that he could not hold it."	"Told Mary I was going to become an MP and, indeed, PM. Had she believed this it would have been the end of a promising romance."
<b>Edward Heath</b>	<i>The Course of My Life 1998</i>	Already savaged by Thatcherites. Disingenuous praise from the left.	Second World War, Suez.	Why he lost so many elections.	Wilson, Thatcher, Enoch Powell.	Nil
<b>James Callaghan</b>	<i>Time and Chance (bioblical) 1987</i>	Brian Walden took him apart, otherwise reasonable. His biographer, Kenneth O Morgan says they were taken seriously by historians.	Killing off "In Place of Strife" Barbara Castle's attempt to reform the unions and rebase their relationship with Labour.	Julian Hodge, the controversial financier with whose Commercial Bank of Wales with he was associated for a time.	The Gang of Four: "It was deeply disappointing that prominent former members of my Cabinet should have deserted to the SDP."	Fell in love with the 16-year-old Audrey in 1929. "I felt she was quite unlike anyone I had ever met before. I still think so."
<b>Margaret Thatcher</b>	<i>The Downing Street Years 1993: The Path to Power 1995</i>	Made enough money to fund the Thatcher Foundation. Helped to wreck Major's premiership.	The leadership contests in 1975 and 1990. Beating the enemy without the Falklands War and the enemy within (Arthur Scargill).	Not much at all about her mother Beatrice. Little on Westland. The Spycatcher affair is missed out altogether.	Nell Kinnock. Her last Cabinet, guilty of "treachery with a smile". Corrects Christ's Sermon on the Mount.	"More than 40 years later I know that my decision to say yes to Denis was one of the best I ever made."
<b>John Major</b>	<i>Sticky Wicket?</i>	Predictable sneering. Probably will be written too early to see his rehabilitation.	Growing up with gnomes.	Don't expect him to be forthcoming on his conversations with Heseltine before he became Deputy PM in 1995.	The Bastards.	Electric meetings with Norma after affair with older woman.

was spent on the running of his office as Leader of the Opposition. There has been some fuss about the reputed sums offered to John Major for his memoirs (up to £600,000) but if anything he is probably under-sold.

But all these statestmen would probably write something even if there were no advance or serialisation rights on the table. Like soldiers whose lives are saved by the bible in their tunic that stops the sniper's bullet, they hope that their testaments will defend their reputations from political assassination. Or, as Winston Churchill put it: "this is not his

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## ANC's lesson for Sinn Fein

COMMENTATORS and politicians, especially left-wing ones, have long made slightly facile comparison between Northern Ireland and various other troubled parts of the world. The Good Friday agreement and the visit of ministers in the South African government as an ANC delegation to Belfast have provided an ideal opportunity for the drawing of some more of these parallels. And, to be fair, we can appreciate the temptation. There are some neat – and telling – comparisons to be made. Ulster's plantation Protestants and the Boer settlers of southern Africa do have some things in common, and not just a desire on both their parts to live in Orange Free States. Both groups were immigrants and a minority amongst the people they found themselves sharing a land with. They developed via a separate evolutionary branch from those they left behind. There is the odd cultural parallel – fundamentalist, puritanical religion and a "no surrender" or *langer* mentality. The Stormont regime which ruled Ulster for five decades was guilty of exclusivism and gerrymandering and a casual attitude to civil rights, although it is right to say that it was not exactly in the same league as the complete denial of human rights that was apartheid. The Ulstermen and the *voortrekkers* both, perhaps with reason, distrusted the British. They also shared a less than sure touch in terms of public relations, but they could prove to be canny negotiators.

But illuminating about the character of some Ulstermen as they may be, it remains that Northern Ireland is not South Africa. The Good Friday agreement was not about finding a Nelson Mandela figure in Gerry Adams. David Trimble is not F W de Klerk. Ian Paisley is not Chief Buthe-lesi. The very idea is comical. The Northern Irish Unionists are a majority in that political entity. Whatever the historical legitimacy of the six counties it is now a political fact of life. Northern Ireland should remain in the United Kingdom for as long as a majority of its people so wish. The worst excesses of the old days of the Orange statelet have gone. The civil and political rights and cultural recognition – "parity of esteem" – that the nationalist minority yearned for are now, give or take a few bigots, taken for granted, as they should be.

So the situation in Northern Ireland is not closely analogous to South Africa. Or, we might add, the Middle East. Or, heaven help us, Bosnia or Zaire. Except in the one crucial respect. Thus far only the South Africans have managed anything like a stable transition to a new politics. This single dimension is the only point of comparison that is really worth making. And that is why the visit of the ANC dignitaries could prove valuable.

In fact this is not the first time that the South Africans have given the Northern Irish a master class in reconciliation. Last year, Ulster politicians met them in the Cape.

We can only suppose that it did them some good, despite, or possibly because of, the lively talk that it generated out in the bush. At least they saw working a future that many could not have foreseen. So what can the ANC help with now?

The most difficult of the issues is decommissioning. This was one of the main sticking points during the reform process in South Africa. Again it is worth stating that the Provisional IRA is not the military or moral equivalent of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe. Whatever case there might have been behind the armed struggle in South Africa no such case exists in a place where democratic politics are practised. Here the analogy, if read across literally, is probably positively damaging. It would not really be on, for example, to integrate IRA and UDA men into the RUC or the Army. Quite apart from any practicalities there is the small question of confidence in the peace process. Even the loosest talk of this kind would do no one any favours for the coming referendum.

The process of demilitarising Northern Ireland needs to go ahead sooner rather than later. We hope that the ANC will be advising Sinn Fein to help with that process by moving on this issue. If they do then they will soon see the end of troops patrolling the streets. That is the real lesson of the South African peace process. As Nelson Mandela said: "As long as there are men and women on all sides who are able to rise above feeling for revenge, men and women who can put the future of their children first, who can put terrible episodes behind them in order to move on, this process can work as ours eventually did." Then these two parts of the world will have the most important thing in common – peace.

## Party leaders run neck and neck

WHO CHOOSES William Hague's ties? Ffion, usually. She must have good taste. Mr Hague is an official Top Tie Wearer. His favourite appears to be bright yellow with blue and red flowers. We shouldn't be surprised at the turn of events. The leader of the Opposition has always been a smartly turned-out lad. The latest glittering prize (a tie pin) is a fitting tribute to his elegance. Indeed he may be beginning to rival his immaculately dressed aide Alan Duncan. We are certainly pleased that he has resisted the temptation to "dress down" as he "reaches out" with his fresh start. He must surely remember the bad press that his predecessor sometimes endured over his grey pin-stripe chain-store suits. Mr Hague admires Lady Thatcher, who warned off allegations of trumpiness by boosting her wardrobe at Aquascutum. In this contest, at least, Mr Hague seems to have had little competition from the Prime Minister. Mr Blair did, after all, once have to deny that his spin-doctors chose his ties for him for their value as a political gesture to middle England. This was supposed to be the reason why he habitually wore a blue number during the last election. We are happy to believe that it was just the first one that came to hand in the morning. But a fiercely competitive couple like the Blairs cannot afford to let the Hagues win any skirmish in the style wars. It is the Prime Minister's 45th birthday next Wednesday. Guess what Cherie's getting him.



MILES KINGTON

THE OTHER day on Radio 4's *The News Quiz* Jeremy Hardy was questioning the use of the phrase, "The doctor was handing out pills as if they were Smarties", and said it was nonsensical, because he had never come across a doctor who handed out Smarties to patients.

I expect this is probably because most of the doctors who started by handing out Smarties to their patients are now behind bars, but that apart, I think Jeremy Hardy is quite right to feel riled by the unthinking use of such phrases. There are lots of these worn-out images referring to different kinds of activity which started out fresh and colourful and have ended up as tired and sagging clichés. A lot of them have been around so long we hardly even think what they mean any more. Sending people to Coventry... taking coals to Newcastle... spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar... putting the cart before the horse... we still use these expres-

sions as automatically as we eat crisps. Why haven't we got any more modern activities to refer to, something a bit more recent than taking coals to Newcastle?

Well, we have, is the answer, and they have become clichés already. Here's an example. Opening envelopes. If a person gets a reputation for going to every party he or she can get invited to, whether it is a launch, start of a show or first night, what do we say? We say, "He would turn up for the opening of an envelope." The first time we heard it, we thought it was quite funny. The second, we thought, Oh, it's catching on. The tenth time, we thought, Yeah, yeah, all right. The fifteenth time, we thought, Oh, COME ON!

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A reader writes: Hold on, hold on! Have you written this entire article just to ask readers to explain a Preston Guild to you? Miles Kington writes: Yes.

## OUT OF THE WOK AND INTO THE FIRING LINE



PRIESTLEY 27-4-98

### German right turn

THE RESULTS of the German state elections in Saxony-Anhalt are not only worrying because of the extreme right's 12 per cent in the polls. The success of the extreme right DVU also indicates problems for the established parties.

East German discontent among young "new voters" with established politics was not channelled into votes for the socialist PDS, which fosters its East German identity among voters, but to a West German organisation campaigning mainly via letters and posters. Furthermore, the failure of the Social Democrats to gain more electoral support given the chaos and disintegration among the Christian Democrats provides further evidence that the so-called "Schröder effect" might have less substance than initially thought. Thus, while this state election and the 12 per cent vote for an extreme-right party might soon be a footnote in history after the general election in September, the failure of the established parties to grasp the economic and social despair of a volatile East German electorate will not disappear that rapidly.

MARTIN LODGE  
Department of Government  
London School of Economics

DESIGNER Nazism, perhaps, (report, 28 April) but that ignores a dangerous undercurrent of anti-foreigner sentiment that has always had wide support in eastern Germany – nurtured by resentment at unfulfilled promises and unrealistic expectations by the eastern Germans themselves.

Sadly, that resentment against foreigners was all too obvious in the three years I spent as a company director in Frankfurt (Oder), near the Polish border. Attempts to nurture a cross-border culture (I was involved in many of these projects) were continuously sabotaged by a cross-class antipathy towards Poland that has its roots in German history.

Even I – a good WASP – experienced many verbal attacks and had my car door kicked in – and not by the skinheads but rather by more "respectable" members of society. The hostility frequently displayed towards my Indian girlfriend during her

visits to Frankfurt effectively prevented her from ever moving there.

All in all, an unpleasant experience, but how much worse for eastern German residents of other race. It really is time for the "silent majority" in eastern Germany to quash this nasty spectre and to take responsibility for their society and its future in an international community.

KRIS SCHNACK  
Richmond, Surrey

### Books about criminals

SHOULD convicted criminals profit from writing books about their crime? This is not an easy question and the recent controversy over publications related to Mary Bell is not surprising. But we were surprised to read that the Home Secretary is looking at changes to the law to prevent them from doing so (report, 27 April).

The law is already in place. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 (s.93A) makes it a money-laundering offence for any person to assist a criminal to deal with his or her proceeds of crime or makes proceeds available to the criminal. This has been the law since February 1995 and it applies to crime carried out before the Act came into force (s.102(4)). What is more, the proceeds (whether generated for the person who renders the assistance or the criminal) are liable to be confiscated (s.71-72).

There is no doubt that proceeds of crime in this context includes profits from publication of a book about the commission of crime. See the litigation in 1991 surrounding the proceeds of the publication of the book about George Blake's escape from prison (Randle and Pouter (1991), *Independent Law Reports*, 26 March).

Consequently, it is open to the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute a convicted criminal (as an aider and abettor) and the publishers of the convicted criminal's publications for money-laundering. If

## LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number  
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

convicted each is liable to confiscation of the proceeds of the publication. If the publisher has not yet paid any money to the criminal but is proposing to make a payment, it is open to the Attorney General to apply to the High Court for an injunction to restrain the payment under the general power of the court to enjoin the commission of crime, namely money-laundering.

ANDREW MITCHELL  
KENNEDY TALBOT  
Barristers  
London EC4

### Abbey sacking

I WRITE to express dismay at the dismissal of my friend Dr Martin Neary as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey. For his inspired selection and conducting of the funeral music for Diana, Princess of Wales, Martin earned not just the nation's but the whole world's gratitude and admiration, while only last month, at Westminster Abbey's memorial service for Sir George Solti, he offered further proof of his eminence in the musical life of this country. He conducted Kodaly's powerful *Missa Brevis* and the little-known but lovely Bruckner motet (his own suggestion) which began what proved to be another very moving ceremony.

Three years ago, Dr Neary made an important contribution to the celebrations devised around the tercentenary of his most famous predecessor at the abbey, the composer Henry Purcell. Purcell had his problems with the dean and chapter of the day, but the authorities were wise enough not to dispense with his services as a consequence.

To terminate in such a brutal manner Dr Neary's contribution to British musical life seems a grave miscarriage of natural justice. I urge the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr, and his colleagues to avoid the embarrassment

and delays surrounding a personal appeal to the Queen by working out, even at this late hour, an accommodation which would demonstrate the Dean's magnanimity and retain for the abbey the services of a most distinguished musician.

HUMPHREY BURTON  
London W14

### Price of education

IN CRITICISING my reference (letter, 21 April) to price sensitivity in higher education, Professor Sir Graham Hills (letter, 23 April) makes the extraordinary claim that "there are no prices in higher education".

The students who are unable to attend all of their classes because they take jobs in order to reduce their debts are paying a price; twice over. Applications to Scottish universities from students based in the Republic of Ireland are down by 33 per cent next year: we have just introduced tuition fees, while the Republic has just abolished them! The prices are there, but perhaps you only notice them if your resources are scarce.

Professor Hills should not confuse the method of salary determination for academics with the important question of where the necessary resources should come from. I could agree with him that students are (eventually) important beneficiaries of higher education. However, the main beneficiaries are the majority of our citizens who gain from the productive work of the scientists, engineers and other professionals who contribute to our civilised society. That is what we all pay our taxes for. The business sector benefits more than most from higher education. This is why the AUT has suggested that business should contribute more.

P K BURGESS  
Immediate Past-President  
Association of University Teachers  
Dundee

### Snowdonia railway

I AM surprised at the objections by the Ramblers and others to the prospect of a new railway through the Snowdonia National Park (report, 27 April).

Railways are in principle far better than roads as a means of access to national parks. The visual impact of a track with occasional trains is much less than that of a road with random traffic of equivalent people-density. Roads and car parks take up hugely more macadamised surface area than rails and stations. Rail travellers will not spoil the view by parking machinery in unauthorised places.

If Snowdonia has an inheritance of railway alignments, a huge investment by our great-grandparents, it should take advantage of the new generation of cheap, bus-sized, railcars and get tougher with cars (smaller car parks, higher charges, no stopping elsewhere and so on).

ANDREW GORDON  
Banbury, Oxfordshire

### Labour menace

THE prospect of Labour MPs doorstep voters, or worse, catching them out with cold call telephone techniques (leading article, 22 April), is not one which will be welcomed by most members of the public. If it is intended that there should be 100 such victims a week, does this herald a new era where the traditional doorstep enemies – Jehovah's Witnesses, door-to-door salesmen, and charity collectors – will be eclipsed by slick and youthful New Labour representatives? My only hope is that it rains on "Cool Britannia".

MATTHEW GOLD  
Wolverhampton, West Midlands

### BSE: the truth at last

LET ME get this straight. BSE is not the fault of farmers, it's not the fault of the Ministry of Agriculture or consumers and it's certainly not the fault of the animal-feed manufacturers ("Feed firms deny causing BSE", 28 April). Well that just leaves one involved party: it must be the cows' fault.

ANDREW MCILRAE  
London SW15

## Coals to Coventry? Modern cliché-mongers can do even better



MILES KINGTON

THE OTHER day on Radio 4's *The News Quiz* Jeremy Hardy was questioning the use of the phrase, "The doctor was handing out pills as if they were Smarties", and said it was nonsensical, because he had never come across a doctor who handed out Smarties to patients.

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## Why I'll be voting 'no' in the referendum for a London mayor



JAMES  
McRAE

POWER TO  
THE BOROUGHES

AT THE RISK of sounding deeply unfashionable, it seems to me to be nuts for London to have a mayor.

We are going to get one, of course. The whole publicity campaign to pick one – the anvil of names, the "what I would do" articles by possible candidates, the TV debate – is founded on the presumption that it is a good idea. It is also quite difficult to argue the case against executive action: while people will accept the general proposition that more bureaucracy is a bad thing, when they are presented with specific goodies such as "we will co-ordinate transport policies" they tend not to see that as bureaucrats intervening in the market.

So, anyone making the case against has a hard job. But there seem to me to be at least seven reasons why, at best, the appointment of a mayor is irrelevant to London's needs, and, at worst, will actually be damaging to its economy.

The starting point of the case against is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". The London economy has had a very successful run in recent years. Perhaps the best measure of the success of a place is whether people go and live there, and the low point in London's population was reached in the early 1980s. Since then, it has been rising slowly. I would not claim that this revival is the direct result of the abolition of the GLC, but it does show that the economy can prosper under the present arrangement.

Point two flows from this. One of the effects of getting rid of a single political body for London has been to create greater competition between the boroughs. They have more functions, attract more attention and, gradually, have lifted the quality of their performance. Of course, not all are wonderful; far from it. But there is a much greater emphasis on competent administration at a borough level than there was under the old system. Recreating a mayor will inevitably attract political attention, and since the space of mind Londoners are prepared to devote to local politics is very limited, some will be drawn away from the boroughs.

Three, the borough system is particularly suited to London, for it has never been a single region. Historically, it is a two-centre town, with Westminster handling the administrative business of the country and the City handling the money side. The rest of the agglomeration consisted of small towns and villages, which merely happen to be physically connected, and which have now grown to the size of cities. The large London boroughs have bigger populations than some countries: Bromley is bigger in population than Iceland. Now, I am not suggesting that Bromley should have a seat at the United Nations, merely that the bor-

oughs are quite big enough to be developed as important political entities, attracting good people and helping foster more vibrant local communities.

Instead, point four, we will create a new focus of power, which sadly will also be a new seed-bed for corruption. This will not happen straightaway but gradually emerge, for any list of politicians will turn up wrong 'uns: the Tories had their share of sleaze and even the squeaky-clean New Labour lot are starting to fray at the edges. Even if mayors one and two prove okay, sooner or later there will be the little feathering of nests that sadly characterise local politics everywhere. Why create a new focus for corruption when we don't need to?

Why also, point five, create a new focus for waste? People inevitably spend other people's money with slightly less attention than they do their own. However cautious, however wise these people prove to be, there will be some waste. Someone is going to want the equivalent of the Lord Chancellor's new wallpaper.

And someone else has to pay for it, point six. Who? The answer, and it does not matter how the money is collected, must be the private sector. But, of course, the main improvements in London over the past 15 years have been in private sector services: everything from better restaurants and smarter shops to the great dubbing industry. Having a new political body will inevitably cost some money. Necessary items such as housing or food are not going to get any cheaper, so the money to pay for the mayor, the support staff, the offices, the limousines and so on will come out of this discretionary spending on private sector services. The most vibrant bit of the London economy will have

What's needed is not top-down politics, but bottom-up commercial acumen

to make a disproportionate contribution to the bill.

Even concerning the things where a mayor might be thought to have a useful co-ordinating role, there are reasons to suspect that an injection of politics may do more harm than good. Take transport, point seven. There is a general perception that London's public transport is bad, which seems to me to be unfair as people compare it with cities as Paris and Tokyo. But the bits which work rather badly (the road system and the tube) are the legacy of political control, while the bits which work pretty well (the taxi service, the airports and air service, and Eurostar) are the result of commercial acumen. What is needed is not top-down politics, but bottom-up commercial acumen.

Still unconvinced? Sorry, I tried. We are, barring a miracle, going to get a mayor, old-fashioned nostrum that it is. We might even vote in a decent one first time round. Then, sooner or later, we will screw up and vote in a dud, someone who doesn't understand the way in which London is a mix of marketplaces, each part of the global economy. And the dud will stumble about, mouthing political slogans, while undermining all of the astounding progress made by the city in the past 15 years.

## Art cannot serve spiritual ends when it has been created in sin

The controversy over Eric Gill's sculptures in Westminster Cathedral was initiated by Margaret Kennedy. Here she explains why she felt it necessary to speak out

JUST before Easter I was watching a religious programme *Love in the Park* on the BBC before going off to Church. I was shocked to find Cardinal Hume under a "station of the cross" at Westminster Cathedral. The stations of Christ's passion placed evenly around the cathedral. It is therefore impossible to move away from them or not have them in eyesight.

The cardinal was extolling the virtues of these works carved by a known paedophile, Eric Gill. I sat and thought, "Surely the cardinal knows this, and if he does, how could he promote Gill's work?" Did he not care that Catholic Survivors of Sexual Abuse would be, and were, very offended by his omitting to mention this fact, and his failing also to speak of Gill's daughters whom he raped and sodomised? The cardinal thus consigned all survivors today to obscurity and invisibility.

I wrote to the *Catholic Herald*, my letter was published and taken up by the national press. I am not surprised by the enormous amount of media attention my letter caused. I challenged the cardinal, the Catholic Church, Gill the man and paedophile, Gill the great artist, Gill the so-called holy man.

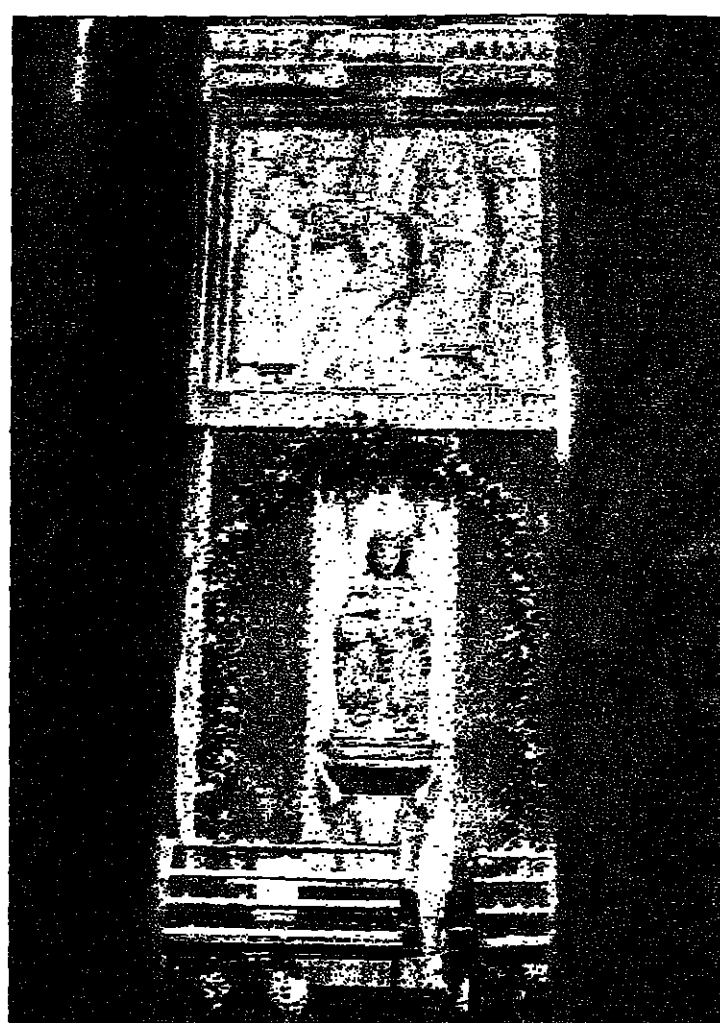
But my concern is not essentially about Gill's art, which I agree is of substantial merit (when he does not digress into pornography). My concern is with the juxtaposition of Gill's art (and therefore the man), Westminster Cathedral and prayer. And also with the invisibility of Gill's victims and all Catholic (or Christian) victims by patriarchal churches. It is a pastoral/spiritual concern not an aesthetic one.

The Catholic Church hides the full truth, something it is skilled at doing, particularly when it comes to clergy paedophilia. The victims must languish, carrying their pain with no understanding from their churches.

No published discussion on Eric Gill has chosen to focus on the pain of the victims of child sexual abuse or why we were angry at the cardinal's programme on Gill. Survivors were completely left out in the media coverage, while a great deal was said about Gill's redemption through the good merits of his artistic skills.

The reason for this was well explained by Marjorie Orr in *The Independent* on Sunday. "Artists and child abusers share a talent for deconstructing reality and reconstructing an often beautiful pseudo-reality in its place." I would add that cardinals, priests, and ministers of all denominations have this skill to the highest degree.

Gill "re-constructed" his reality so as to continue his sexual depravity: the "dissonance" he felt about what he was doing had to be alleviated. The Catholic Church with its "genital and patriarchal theology" was a gift to a paedophile and



The deposition, by Eric Gill, at Westminster Cathedral John Lawrence

a man who believed that his needs were paramount and women and children were objects for sexual experimentation. Flavours of this still abound today, giving other paedophiles reinforcement for their activities.

Theology speaks of Christ being the

validated by the hierarchy. His children would have had no means of getting anyone to believe what Gill was doing. It was distressing to read of Gill's grandson saying the family saw Gill's activities as "something of a family joke" (*Daily Mail*, 16 April). How can sodomy

We do not need to be reminded by every cathedral pillar that the Church favours paedophile art and maybe even the paedophile

bridgegroom and of his consummated love for the Church, the Bride. Some theologians hold that it is the male priest who plants the seed (semen) of faith in the female Church. This could be the reason why the Catholic Church does not have female priests, we have no penis, we cannot penetrate and plant God's seed.

Gill, as do many present day priest abusers, used this teaching to his advantage. It justified his "love" for women and children. The intercourse became divine, an echo of God's love in sending (seeding) Jesus to his people. We now know that so-called "spiritual" and "holy" paedophiles very often use these spiritual reasons to coerce victims. "God doesn't mind me doing this, sex is holy. I am a holy man, I wouldn't hurt you. God is my friend."

Gill probably used this reasoning with his children and other victims, backed up by inviting clerics to Ditchling so that women and children could see he was

that he could enjoy his sexual conquest. Even the young maids were at risk. They tried to resist. Gill wrote in his diary: "[they were] modest in refusing to undress". He liked them as, "nice girls, about 15, dressed as nuns in blue serge and two plaits of hair."

We are not talking of an art gallery, we are talking of a holy cathedral. We as Christian survivors deserve to have a place, to pray, to feel at peace, when peace evades us, not to be reminded by every cathedral pillar that the Church favours paedophile art and indeed maybe even the paedophile.

It has been said that we are "projecting our own anxieties on to a work of art". This is not what we are doing. Many, including the Cathedral clerics, have said that we can and should separate Gill's private sexual life from Gill the artist. But you cannot separate Gill the artist from Gill the paedophile, especially as you gaze on a piece of work and try to pray! The passion of Christ is meaningful to us, as we can relate our own passion to his as we pray. This can be enormously supportive to us in times of deep pain. As Clifford Longley put it in the *Tablet*, "The question is not whether these carvings are beautiful, but whether they are fit for their purpose."

Those who do separate Gill the paedophile from his art indicate, by the level of separation, their level of denial about what he did and what the children suffered, and what we too have suffered.

We are accused of wanting to desecrate the cathedral by requesting the removal of the stations. It would not desecrate, for the cathedral is already desecrated by their very presence, it would cleanse. It would be an opportunity for Church leaders to demonstrate an intolerance of child sexual assaults, rape and buggery. It would be a fitting recognition of Gill's victims and all victims/survivors of child sexual abuse.

Must we leave all protest to Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse, or to Les Whittingham, of the Midland Hotel in Morecambe, who is refusing to display a Gill fresco as demanded by his council. He says, "We've told them we don't want it back up, because Gill was a paedophile." If an hotelier can take a moral stance, why can't the cardinal? Are the "holy" people and artists right and the victims and ordinary people wrong?

We are convinced that the work of a man who exploited women and children for his own sexual perversions should not be in a cathedral house of God or extolled. Incest is inscribed in every tablet, on every pillar.

We want them down.

## Forget dumbing down – books and bookshops are moving up



ANDREW  
MARR

SPRINGTIME  
READING

IT'S SPRING, of a sort. Minds turn to dew-fresh parks and un-splashed squares, of rolling lawns and open-air sport and nooching by riverbanks. All of which is fine, but second-best, for me, there is no better place in the world than a good bookshop, with the smell of fresh coffee in the air, staff who know their stuff, and time for a long, fernrom-wasting browse. Keep those shutters down, look out Nature and enjoy...

If this seems odd, then all I can say is that I am early in good company. However you cut the figures, books are big business and still growing. Sales are up. There has been a modest 1.5 per cent fall in the number of titles published in 1997 but that comes at the back of a huge rise in the

course of the decade, from just over 64,000 titles published in 1990 to more than 100,000 now. And though independent bookshops are under pressure, the march of the big specialist stores, above all Waterstone's, which recently effectively took over Dillons, looks unstoppable.

It is a big cultural change in my adulthood – and a very cheering one, too. When people talk about how economic growth has improved the quality of life for the majority – better food, better clothes, better housing – they should remember better books and better bookshops, too.

Can this trading up, this enthusiasm not merely for bookshops but for better books, be proven? In the BookTrack bestsellers list earlier this month the top five original fiction titles, in order, were John Grisham's *The Street Lawyer*, Nick Hornby's *About a Boy*, Joanna Trollope's *Other People's Children*, Barbara Vine's *The Chinney Sweeper's Boy*, and Toni Morrison's *Paradise*. In the mass-market fiction list were Kate Atkinson's *Human Croquet*, Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*, Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary*, PD James's *A Certain Justice* and Louis de Bernieres's *Captain Correlli's Mandolin*.

Among the top-five hardback non-fiction titles were a BBC cooking book and the in-

evitable *Wisden*, but also Peter Ackroyd's *Life of Thomas More* and Ted Hughes's *Birthday Letters*. And in the paperback non-fiction list are *The Little Book of Calm*, John Gray's *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, Jean-Dominique Bauby's *Diving Bell and Butterfly*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes* and the Department of Transport's *Highway Code*.

It is pretty typical of such lists in recent years and it tells us a lot about ourselves. I haven't read all the books on the list, but I have read most.

Book-buying isn't, as I used to think, hopelessly old-fashioned or uncommon

There have been several newspaper columns devoted to the phenomenon of *The Little Book of Calm*, dwelling on what its popularity says about our frenetic lifestyles, our alleged selfishness, and what have you. To my mind, however, the most important thing is that it costs £1.99 and rests, mostly, just by the till. In real literary worth it can be safely bracketed with the clean prose, muscular construction and sense of narrative achieved by the DoT's *Highway Code*. All of us, similarly, are aware of the huge popularity of

emotional and social self-help books of the Mars and Venus variety.

Overall, the remarkable thing about these lists is their quality. Of the ten top hardback and mass-market works of fiction, five are unquestionably serious, proper and highly intelligent books – the new Hornby, the Toni Morrison, the Kate Atkinson, Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* and the delightful *Captain Correlli*. Of the rest, three, the John Grisham, the Barbara Vine and the PD James come from

the higher and more literate slopes of Mount Whodunnit: the Joanna Trollope is shrewd, tough and contemporary in the best sense; and Bridget Jones, who began life at *The Independent*, is a brilliantly funny and acute take on thirtysomething single femalehood. One of them will be read in a century's time – *Captain Correlli* – and maybe more. Not one of these books is actually bad.

Turning to that non-fiction list, it is not, in fact, extraordinary that a life of Thomas More, heavyweight in every sense, makes it into any kind of top five, even a relatively slow-selling one? And how does it correlate to our fashionable view of ourselves as a post-literate, dumbed-down society that Ted Hughes is up there, too – and available in scores of places such as airport bookstalls, as well as Oxfords and campus outlets? *Angela's Ashes* is also a wonderful work of summoned memory and literary nostalgia. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* was better as a story of human courage than as an actual book – but again, it was unquestionably a truly serious book.

Our literary editor, Boyd Tonkin, has recently compared bestseller lists in the late Nineties with those of the early Eighties and confirms my impression, which is that the average standard of novels being sold is much higher. The same is true, up to a point, of non-fiction: see the huge growth in popular science, meaning highly sophisticated, literate essays by truly serious people, like Stephen Pinker, Oliver Sacks, Matt Ridley and Richard Dawkins.

There are counter-indicators, such as the depressing spread of books about warfare, encroaching and eating up the history shelves; and the New Age idiot spiritualism, which seems to take up the same basement corners reserved for Marxism and feminism in ear-

lier decades... but, pacing past the stacked literary biographies, science books and so on, one sees the image of a country that is higher-brow than it seems to think it is. We are a high-brow and fanatically literate culture.

I know that this goes against most media thinking, and that it contradicts the determined pessimism of a nation that knows in its guts that it's becoming dumber and glibber by the minute. But the evidence is overwhelming – go to your local bookshop and look. If it is a mirror, then it is a flattering mirror, a bright mirror.

More than any rock music, or Britpack art, or films, it is evidence that Britain is a more interesting place to be than it was. I'm sorry about the diet of relentless optimism – normal grouchiness will be resumed shortly. Blame it on spring. But book-buying isn't, as I used to think, hopelessly old-fashioned or uncommon. Thanks to Waterstone's and other enlightened people, you can find cafes and late opening, and the decent, fresh air-shunning heart of middle Britain celebrating and browsing all around you. Bees? Leather on willow? Forget it. Browsing is the best sound I know.

This article is an abbreviated version of a speech given last night in Harrogate to the Booksellers Association.

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20  
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Is your child ready?

Which of the below is responsible for producing salts that emulsify or break down lipids?

- a) Kidney
- b) Gall bladder
- c) The ileum

Answer in tomorrow's paper (yesterday's answer was A: 13.3m/s)

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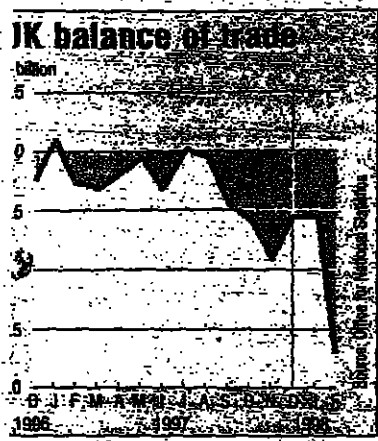






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## Sterling blamed for worst trade gap in 7 years

By Michael Harrison  
and Les Patterson

**THE TOLL** on the economy from the strong pound was graphically demonstrated yesterday after publication of the worst monthly trade figures in seven years and a warning from the Confederation of British Industry that export confidence was at its lowest since 1980.

The UK's global deficit on trade in goods and services in February was £1.7bn, more than three times January's deficit and way above analysts' expectations. The gloomy mood was reinforced by the CBI's latest quarterly industrial trends survey

showing export optimism at its lowest ebb for 18 years, a sharp drop in overall manufacturing confidence and growing signs of an investment strike by manufacturing industry.

Economists last night warned that UK manufacturing was on the brink of recession. CBI leaders dismissed this, saying industry was facing a "slowdown but not necessarily a stop".

However, they also used the latest survey results to reinforce calls for a halt to any further interest rate rises. The CBI also urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to be more "activist" in helping keep the lid on sterling. Ministers said they accepted that the

high level of the pound was hurting but pointed to British industry's lack of competitiveness. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said Britain was still "far too far behind our major competitors", echoing comments last week by Mr Brown that UK industrial productivity was 40 per cent behind that of the US.

In a speech to businessmen in York last night, Adam Turner, the CBI's director general, accepted that the long-term goal was to improve productivity growth. But he added that short-term interest rates were high enough: "The strong pound is hurting our exporters badly and is beginning to hit their investment plans. The CBI's judgement is that the inflation target can

be met without any further rate rises."

Earlier, Sir Ross Buckland, chairman of Unigate and head of the CBI's economic affairs committee, went further, urging the Bank of England to confirm that rates are now at their peak and that the next movement would be downwards.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said the CBI survey was "incredibly weak" while Richard Iley of ABN Amro said UK's manufacturing sector "may already be in recession".

Export optimism is now lower than at any point during the last recession, with a negative balance of 48 per cent of companies pessimistic about prospects for the year ahead. Sterling averaged DM3.07

and \$1.68 during the survey period.

The trade deficit was the largest since the Office for National Statistics (ONS) began recording monthly trade in services back in January 1991.

Excluding oil and erratic items, the UK goods deficit widened by £566m in February to just over £2bn. The oil surplus fell by £220m to £166m, its lowest level since 1993, following the recent decline in oil prices. The surplus on UK services fell by just over £100m to £461m.

The UK's trade performance deteriorated most rapidly with non-EU countries, a fact that economists called "curious" given that sterling's appreciation "has mostly been a European affair".

## Dusted research chief damns his former company's 'wonder products'

## Millar condemns Biotech's drugs

Terry Macalister

BRITISH Biotech's former head of clinical research last night launched a damning criticism of the company's two main products. Dr Andrew Millar said one was might have to be shelved while the other only had a 40 per cent chance of success.

Dr Millar, sacked last week, alleged the board was running a "business plan" consisting only of extreme and unfounded optimism, which would run out of money and "grind to a halt in about two years".

He said the chance of a "marimastat", the company's "wonder drug", being successful as only 40 per cent. He said it would take a few more years to know if it worked in cancer.

And he poured cold water on the company's claims that its "Zacutax" product was a "wonder drug".

But British Biotech's chairman, John Raisman, dismissed Dr Millar's criticism of the company saying it was "nonsense" (that the company could "run out of money"). He said: "Preservation of cash over the long term is a key criterion of our company."

He said the suggestions that the company could only be a 40 per cent chance of Marimastat succeeding. Mr Raisman said: "I'm amazed. Dr Millar has always been a great proponent of Marimastat."

Dr Millar's negative views on



Built on hopes: The Biotech facility in Cowley, Oxford, constructed in the hope of the drugs going ahead

Zacutax were dismissed by Mr Raisman. "You have got to doubt him on almost every point," he said.

Dr Millar made some of his views known in an open letter. He was dismissed last week for allegedly breaching confidentiality clauses in his contract by talking to shareholders.

Dr Millar has been at odds with senior management for 18 months over what he perceived to be its over-optimistic view of the company's commercial future.

He said yesterday he had warned main board members, including the non-executives, at a meeting last May that the prospects for Zacutax were not as rosy as many people thought.

He alleged he was reprimanded afterwards by a senior director for being overly negative, and that on another occasion he was reprimanded by another executive for "attempting to demoralise senior management".

Mr Raisman agreed that Dr Millar had given a "downbeat

message but added: "Anything he said at that stage could only be speculative because the trial was at too early a stage to be statistically significant."

The British Biotech chairman said he was still optimistic about its products. The company is hoping they will be successful. He dismissed Dr Millar's views as "idiosyncratic".

Dr Millar admitted last night he felt he had probably breached confidentiality agreements by talking to shareholders but said he had no option.

He said he had been through line management up to and including John Raisman, the chairman, calling on them to reduce company expenditure because the underlying drug trials did not justify such expansion.

Dr Millar said: "It seemed to me to be a responsible thing to do to talk to the main shareholder [Perpetual] and the company's financial director [Kleinwort Benson] and try to get them to put pressure on management to change corporate direction."

He claimed he had been told by the shareholders they could get management to safeguard the future of the company "but in the end I finished up being hung out to dry in public".

Dr Millar made his particular views on the main British Biotech drugs public for the first time yesterday. He said: "Marimastat is a very interesting potential drug which must be researched but it could take a few more years or more before we know whether it works in cancer or not. This is totally at odds with the business plans."

With regard to Zacutax, he said: "I fear the early data on lexisafid [Zacutax] misled us. The current data needs to be carefully reviewed and, if incompatible with success, this very expensive project should be shut down."

Shareholders watching the company's share price plummet from £3 to yesterday's level of 53p have been anxious to hear the views of the non-executive directors on the British Biotech board. They are led by Mr Raisman, the former chairman of Shell, and include David John, chairman of the BOC industrial group.

Mr Raisman defended the role of the non-executives, saying they had acted with "extensive due diligence" and had been involved in extensive discussions about corporate strategy all along.

Dr Millar accepted he was also concerned about the value of his own share options which were exercisable in 1999.



Speaking up: Dr Andrew Millar, at home yesterday, said what he was doing was 'pretty frightening'

## Portrait of a whistleblower

By Terry Macalister

WHISTLEBLOWERS come in all shapes and sizes but no one would pick out Dr Andrew Millar, a highly successful head of clinical research, as an obvious candidate.

Sacked last week by British Biotech, for which he had dedicated his last seven years, 43-year old Dr Millar risks losing his income and share options as well as sacrificing a gold-plated clinical reputation.

No future employers like whistleblowers, yet Dr Millar has pitched himself into hand-

to-hand combat with group which can call on some serious heavyweights from the business world.

British Biotech's board includes John Raisman, the former Shell chairman, and David John, BOC chairman. For his part Dr Millar has only a nervous solicitor and a belief that "honesty is an impenetrable armour".

Given the odds, Dr Millar admits it's all "pretty frightening", adding: "It really is not what I am about. I think it's something that only comes up once in a lifetime and I hope I will have to do it again."

Until differences with management appeared, Dr Millar had enjoyed considerable success. He had established the clinical research team having been brought in from pharmaceutical group, FMR.

He had worked in Japan and Australia before being European director for HMIR. Before this he had worked as a surgeon registrar at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Dr Millar studied at Oxford, having done his pre-clinical training at Cambridge. He was schooled at Winchester College and comes from a family of Oxfordshire doctors.

His father was a local GP and his wife is also a doctor. He lives in the village of Wallingford where his main pre-occupations - outside work - are his three children, tennis and gardening.

So why did put at risk such an enviable lifestyle? "I just found the directors were becoming big-headed and I feared a promising company could fall through their pride."

But he is realistic about the challenge facing him. He says: "It is inconceivable that I will get back there [into British Biotech] unless all the board has gone."

## Records chief out in EMI power struggle

By Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

THE power struggle at EMI took another turn yesterday when the music group confirmed that Jean-François Ceillon, chief executive of its UK record labels, had left, with immediate effect.

Mr Ceillon, known in the industry as a flamboyant high-spirited, was brought into the company by Jim Field who paid the group earlier this month with a £12m pay-off.

EMI said Mr Ceillon was leaving because his contract had not been renewed. However, it

is understood that the decision was taken by Ken Berry, the head of EMI's music labels worldwide, and who was promoted to the main EMI board earlier this month.

Mr Ceillon's departure is seen as an attempt by EMI to move away from its profligate image associated with Mr Field, known as "Lucky Jim" because of his high pay.

Mr Ceillon once hired a helicopter to take him between two football matches. EMI said he did not charge the fee on his expenses. Though Mr Ceillon achieved success with groups like Eternal, his more recent record was considered patchy.

## City cuts Selfridges' valuation

By Nigel Cope  
Assistant City Editor

THE value of Selfridges, the Oxford Street department store which will be de-merged from Sears in the summer, was dramatically reduced yesterday after it reported a sharp fall in full year profits and weak sales affected by lower tourist spending, the disruption of refurbishment and a slow Christmas.

City analysts cut their valuation to as little as £275m against previous price tags of more than £500m, despite a property re-valuation which has added more than £100m to its balance sheet and the prospect of a new Selfridges in

Manchester. Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman, said he had received offers for the Selfridges business but turned them down. "We intend to float it," he said. He said none of the offers were from Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed.

One analyst said: "People were valuing Selfridges at £500m, but we think £275m would be more realistic. This is a very uncertain sector and this is another exercise of management mis-judgement. They are a day late and a dollar short."

The analyst said the decision to press ahead with the de-merger was surprising given Selfridges lower sales, falling profits and new systems that do

not go live until January. Nick Bubb of SG Securities said: "Management sounded relaxed but given the company's record the chances of something going wrong are quite high."

Sears plans to de-merge Selfridges by July and its Freemans mail order group later this year. Analysts had been hoping for a capital return of around £200m to shareholders. However, some said the figure could now be as low as £80m.

Sir Bob Reid, Sears chairman, admitted that 1997 had been a "challenging year", in which it had re-structured the business and sold its troublesome British Shoe subsidiary. "We have got rid of the losers,"

he said. He was speaking as Sears announced losses of £115m caused by exceptional charges of £174m. Almost £150m of these were related to the sale of British Shoe.

Profits in the three remaining businesses all fell. Freemans was hit by the strong pound. The clothing business, which will be Sears' sole business after the two de-mergers, saw profits fall after losses at Miss Selfridges caused by higher markdowns. Richards is only breaking even, while Wallis and Warehouse performed well. Profits dipped slightly at Adams childrenswear.

Investment Column, page 20

## Election battle at Baltic Exchange

By Terry Macalister

A MUTINY has broken out at the Baltic Exchange, one of the City's oldest institutions, with dissident shareholders campaigning for election to the ruling board on a "reform" ticket.

The current Baltic board is accused of wasting hundreds of thousands of pounds commissioning reports and "failing to move with the times". These criticisms have been put by Peter Kerr-Dineen, joint chairman of respected shipbroking firm Howe Robinson, in an open letter to Baltic shareholders.

Mr Kerr-Dineen, one of two

critics seeking election, has put himself forward for a secret ballot of all members on 8 July. In his letter, he criticises the way the board dealt with a Deloitte & Touche report it had commissioned on how to extricate itself from financial problems.

The letter says: "Regardless of a cost of £300,000, the board had no hesitation rejecting the report and instead floated a poorly constructed alternative set of proposals that it subsequently withdrew."

Jim Buckley, Baltic secretary, said the report was shelved after a majority of members made it clear they did not agree with its findings.

## Yesterday in the markets

## STOCK MARKETS

Index	Close	Change	Change %	10 wk high	10 wk low	Yield %
FTSE 100	5906.60	84.20	1.47	6180.50	4361.20	3.47
FTSE 250	3557.50	3.50	1.07	3605.50	2384.20	2.95
FTSE 350	2807.40	38.30	1.39	2938.70	2139.30	3.37
FTSE 100 Share	2740.51	30.62	1.15	2861.72	2106.58	3.24
FTSE 100 Dividend	2828.50	1.90	0.07	2842.30	2102.10	2.98
FTSE 100 P/E Ratio	1411.10	-0.80	-0.06	1417.50	1226.20	3.23
FTSE 100 Dividend Yield	3.07	-0.01	-0.33	3.08	2.95	3.06
FTSE 100 Dividend Payout	1536.43	24.52	1.63	2081.79	1448.21	0.98
FTSE 100 Dividend Cover	1870.51	24.90	0.80	1882.31	799.13	3.76
FTSE 100 Dividend Payout Ratio	3010.67	26.46	1.37	3442.00	2361.71	1.62

## INTEREST RATES

Short sterling	UK 10 year gilt	US long bond
3 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
6 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
12 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
18 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
24 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
30 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
36 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
42 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
48 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
54 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83
60 month 1.17 1/2%	10 year 5.88	10 year 5.83

## CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00
1.6670	2.9390	161.00

## TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5071	Malta (lira)	0.6310
Austria (schilling)	20.39	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.88
Belgium (francs)	60.00	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2623
Canada (\$)	2.3450	New Zealand (\$)	2.9171
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8471	Norway (krone)	12.17
Denmark (krone)	11.15	Portugal (escudos)	205.51
Finland (markka)	8.8769	Saudi Arabia (riyals)	5.0949
France (francs)	9.7397	Singapore (\$)	2.5370
Germany (marks)	2.9140	Spain (pesetas)	246.19
Greece (drachmas)	511.17	South Africa (rand)	8.1106
Hong Kong (\$)	12.57	Sweden (krone)	12.61
Ireland (pounds)	1.1478	Switzerland (francs)	2.4264
India (rupees)	81.05	Thailand (bahts)	58.42
Israel (shekels)	5.7892	Turkey (liras)	337.957
Italy (lira)	2.881	USA (\$)	1.6341
Japan (yen)	215.16		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.9916		

Rates for indication purposes only  
Source: Thomas Cook



## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

### Troubles not over at Sears

THAT Sears' shares should rise yesterday after a truly awful set of results shows how desperate the market has become about this company. The rise was down to the fact that the current trading figures were not even worse than prospects at the current share price, up 4.25p to 59.75p, do not look exciting.

Yesterday's £115m loss amounts to the group's second "kitchen sinking" of its accounts in three years. This year's deficit was attributable to £174m of exceptional, chiefly the £150m cost of selling its loss-making British Shoe Corporation.

If selling BSC had removed the last problems from Sears portfolio the relief would seem justified. Sadly this is not the case. The group is pressing on with demerger both its Selfridges department store operation and its Freemans mail order business even though market conditions and the performance of both businesses are not auspicious.

Selfridges saw profits fall by 36 per cent to £22.7m, partly due to less space in the Oxford Street store as refurbishment continues but also due to lower tourist spending and higher mark-downs.

At Freemans, profits were also down with the strong pound hitting overseas sales. In clothing, the division Sears will be left with after the demerger, results were affected by losses at Miss Selfridge and a poor performance from Richards.

Analysts are attaching break-up values of 65p-75p to Sears with SG Securities going for £350m (25p) for Selfridges, £250m (16p) for Freemans, £200m (13p) for clothing and a £200m capital return in the form of a 13p special dividend.

Net assets are 66p following a £122m upgrade in the valuation of the property portfolio. This underpins the share price but Sears has several problems looking forward. The retail climate is difficult. Freemans will face tougher competition from the GUS-Argos link-up, and the clothing business has historically proved unable to hang on to its margins when the going gets difficult.

Management appeared confident that the worst was over yesterday but investors should be wary given this company's capacity to disappoint. Worth holding until the demerger and for possible takeover action but not one to chase much above current levels.

### Football value at Leeds

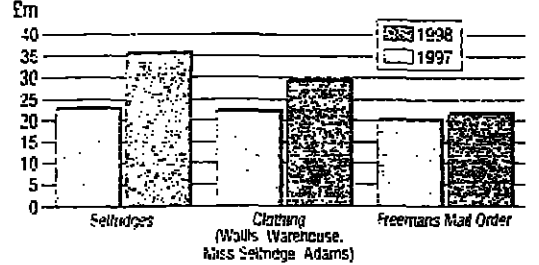
DISILLUSIONED fans could be forgiven for turning their back on football shares, which have shown relegation form all

#### Sears: At a glance

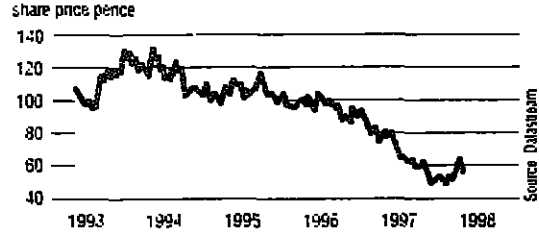
Market value: £911m, share price 59.75 (+4.25p)

Five-year record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	2.01	2.14	2.33	1.85	1.62
Pre-tax profits (£m)	138.30	153.80	(119.70)	68.10	(115.70)
Earnings per share (p)	6.80	7.50	(7.10)	3.30	(7.30)
Dividends per share (p)	3.68	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95

#### Trading profits by division



#### Sears share price



this season. But the slump in the value of the sector means there could be value to be had for investors bold enough to remain in their seats for the long haul.

Leeds Sporting, formerly known as *Caspian* and owner of Leeds United football club, whose own shares have slumped from more than 46p to 19p, could eventually turn out to be one of the winners.

While it is not in the financial league of the footballing elite such as Manchester United, it is doing better than most. Football revenues rose 10 per cent to £13.5m in the six months to December, thanks to better attendances and rising income from executive boxes and catering.

Of course much of this and future financial success, as always with football clubs, depends on the team's performance on the pitch. Here to the omens are good. Manager George Graham has started a revival at the club. Fifth in the league at the moment, Leeds should qualify for Europe next year.

Players' wages, as in the rest of the Premier League, are a major concern but the underlying rise of 18 per cent is better than average and Graham has cleared out a lot of dead wood from the squad. A new £40m development of an indoor arena and hotel next to Leeds United's ground also promises to create value for shareholders, although at this stage how much is anybody's guess.

Peel Hunt forecasts pre-transfer profits of around £2.25m in the 12 months to June, rising to £4m the year after.

However perhaps a better way to view Leeds is as a relatively under-exploited foot-

ball franchise with genuine potential and a strong fan base.

### Fibernet hopes high

INVESTORS have dialled into Fibernet, which specialises in providing local fibre-optic telephone cables, over the last few months.

Listed on the Alternative Investment Market at 100p in June 1996, the shares were languishing at 84p last Christmas, but have soared to a peak of 341p last week, valuing the company at £133m, in anticipation of a profit bonanza.

When or indeed if it arrives, however, is a difficult one to call.

Fibernet reported a loss of £2m compared to a profit of £132,000 last year. That included an increased loss of £2.5m on T-Net, its high-speed fibre-optic communications network used to link local telephone systems and on which the company's hopes are pinned.

Turnover in the established local area network services rose by almost 30 per cent to £4.4m, but operating profits rose by just 9 per cent to £582,000, reflecting margin pressures caused by the need to constantly upgrade technology.

These margin worries and delays in translating orders for T-Net into income combined to send the shares down 40p to 301p yesterday. Analysts are now looking for a flat second half and a loss of £2m for the full year.

Analysts have pencilled in a profit of £6m for next year. At 30 times forecast earnings the shares are far from cheap given the risks involved and the threat of competition from the likes of BT in future years. However Fibernet still looks a good long-term investment.

# Shareholders attack SB board

By Andrew Verity

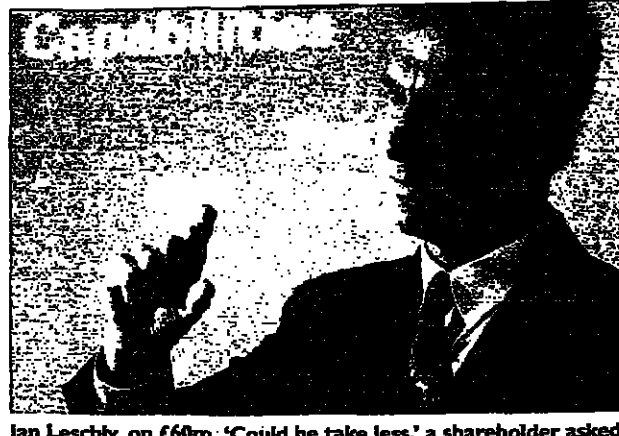
THE BOARD of SmithKline Beecham yesterday faced the first public attacks from shareholders for its role in wiping £13bn off the value of the company after merger talks with Glaxo Wellcome were broken off.

Shareholders attacked the board for exonerating themselves from blame for the merger flop, bitterly criticising executives for allowing the company to be exposed to a "drubbing" from the City and the press.

One shareholder said: "The chief executive says that he is disappointed. Well he damn well ought to be disappointed. You're blaming them and no doubt they will blame you. But despite all you have said, something like £13bn was reported lost when this merger failed. I think that is a disgrace."

Sir Peter Walters, chairman of SB, said: "You have lost money but you have lost money on a merger that could not have delivered the benefits of that first few days' share price enhancement."

Mr Walters hit back at claims last week by Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo Well-



Jan Leschly, on £60m. "Could he take less," a shareholder asked

come, that Glaxo had wanted a merger of equals. He said Sir Richard Sykes on 30 January had said he wanted both himself and Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, to report to the board.

"Sir Richard Sykes, however, on 20 February, then proposed removing Jan before the deal had even been completed and having other members of the management team report directly to him."

Mr Leschly also faced sharp criticism over a pay and compensation package which amounts to more than £60m. One shareholder asked: "I'm sure

Jan is so wonderful but could he please take a little less money?"

Mr Walters said the package was needed to retain Mr Leschly in the context of the worldwide pay for heading a pharmaceutical company. His pay ranked eighth in the world for pharmaceutical companies while Sir Richard was the 12th best paid.

"These are salaries that are outside the normal range for British companies. We pay well and it is a lot. But so far the company has delivered a lot."

Mr Leschly ruled out a merger with Zeneca and said SB had a bright future as an independent company.

## Scottish & Newcastle to close down three sites

By Andrew Yates

ANOTHER part of Britain's historic brewing industry disappeared yesterday when Scottish & Newcastle (S&N) announced the closure of head-quarters in Northampton, the West Midlands and Chorley with the loss of 300 jobs.

It is the latest in a series of cutbacks from major brewers who have sacked thousands of workers over the past few years in an effort to cope with a shift in power in the drinks industry following the emergence of huge independent pub chains. The new pub giants have used their

market power to squeeze bigger discounts out of brewers, forcing them to cut costs.

S&N has been forced to re-structure its business following the recent loss of an exclusive contract to supply The Grand Pub Company. Analysts expect the loss of beer revenues from what is its biggest customer will cost S&N £25m a year and mean its brewing profits will be flat this year.

The headquarters of William Younger, the trading company named after the founding father of the group who first opened a brewery in Edinburgh almost 150 years ago, is being shut down.

The base of Matthew Brown, the brewer that S&N acquired after a bitter takeover battle in 1987, is also going to be abandoned.

S&N is planning to shake up its whole brewing network by streamlining six of its sales businesses under four regional companies into its main brands including Courage, John Smith's, Newcastle Breweries and Scottish Brewers.

S&N is not planning to axe any of beer brands as part of the restructuring. But analysts believe that the group is likely to cut costs further over the next few years, which could involve rooting out smaller, less successful beers.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alexandra Workwear (P)	66.0m (65.9m)	5.5m (1.1m)	10.7p (2.2p)	7.0p (6.5p)
Car's Milling (L)	43.88m (42.97m)	0.853m (1.704m)	5.5p (14.5p)	3.0p (0.0p)
David Brown (P)	191.9m (181.8m)	15.0m (17.2m)	17.0p (17.7p)	9.2p (8.4p)
Fibernet Group (I)	4.70m (3.42m)	-1.98m (0.132m)	-5.3p (0.4p)	nil (nil)
McCarthy & Stone (I)	41.0m (32.1m)	9.1m (4.5m)	5.2p (3.2p)	1.0p (0.66p)
NY Holdings (I)	47.11m (44.96m)	6.509m (6.502m)	3.44p (3.35p)	0.85p (0.8p)
Sears (P)	1.62m (1.95m)	-115.7m (68.1m)	4.1p (4.3p)	3.50p (3.95p)
S & U (P)	60.46m (60.52m)	7.02m (7.13m)	42.30p (39.31p)	19.0p (18.0p)
United Assurance (P)	9.02m (10.16m)	0.151m (2.09m)	24.9p (88.4p)	9.25p (9.5p)
Utility Cable (I)	33.49m (55.14m)	-3.01m (1.78m)	-2.06p (0.82p)	nil (0.27p)

(P) - Final (I) - Interim 1 EPS is pre-exceptionals \*Dividend to be paid as a RD

## Hi-Tech surges on bid hopes

By Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

SHARES in Hi-Tech Sports, the sports shoe manufacturer, surged by more than a third to 51.5p yesterday after it said it was considering a deal with a larger partner that could lead to a bid for the company. The increase values Hi-Tec at £26m.

"Interested parties are most likely to be American corporations and the possible associations being considered by the board may or may not result in an offer being made for

## Risk-taking yields big rewards for the rich

THE RICH are getting richer and are taking greater risks with their investments, according to a report out yesterday. The 1998 Merrill Lynch/Gemini World Wealth Report reckoned the wealth of the world's richest people grew by 3 per cent last year to \$17.4 trillion (£10.4 trillion). The report also found that lower risk investments, such as bank deposits and bonds, were falling out of favour with richer investors, who were turning to the traditionally more risky equity markets.

## Weather cost as forecast

INSURANCE giants General Accident and Guardian Royal Exchange revealed the extent of the impact of the severe weather during January and Easter in the UK and the ice storms in Canada. GRE said its liabilities were around £37m while GA said claims had risen £30m year-on-year in the first three months of 1998. Analysts said weather losses in the first part of the year were in line with market expectations.

## Allianz goes fast

A DM1.3bn (£435m) batch of new shares in insurer Allianz was snapped up by global institutional investors in 30 minutes. The issue, at DM5.46 a share, marked the second phase of a capital increase to help fund Allianz's planned takeover of France's AGF, which will restore it to the number one spot in Europe.

## Engine order for Rolls

ROLLS-ROYCE said International Aero Engines is to supply V2500 engines to three Latin American airlines in the biggest single order in the consortium's history. Rolls-Royce is a major shareholder in IAE. The contract, worth up to \$2.3bn (£1.37bn), has a potential value to Rolls of \$770m, it said. Grupo Taca, Lan-Chile and TAM Brazil have selected the V2500 to power 82 firm and 87 option Airbus Industrie A319 and A320 aircraft. The engines will be assembled at Rolls-Royce's factory in Derby.

## United Biscuits expands

UNITED BISCUITS is in talks with Campbell Soup Company to buy its Biscuits Delacre business for an undisclosed sum. Delacre is Campbell's continental European biscuit business, with operations in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. UB said it expected the acquisition to be earnings enhancing in its first year. In the year to July 1997, Delacre had sales of \$180m. UB said, adding that a proposed return of £150m to shareholders this July would be unaffected.

## Telekom's Asia charge

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM said it had taken a DM300m (£100m) charge against its assets in Asia as a result of the region's financial and economic crisis. Joachim Kroecke, chief financial officer, told a news conference that, including business losses in the region, Telekom's results had been depressed by DM900m last year.

## Salvage shares tumble

SHARES in Universal Salvage lost a fifth of their value after the independent contract motor salvage group warned full year profits would be below current market estimates. The shares closed down 12.5p at 50p. The group expects pre-tax profits of around £1.6m. It warned at the interim stage the group would not meet the estimates for the year to April in the market at that time - about £4m - and brokers downgraded it to about £2.5m.

## Coopers to hire 1,000

COOPERS & LYBRAND, the Big Six accountancy firm that is in the process of merging with Price Waterhouse, is seeking to hire 1,000 people around the world as part of a massive recruitment drive aimed at keeping pace with a projected growth rate of 20 per cent a year.

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## PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



VICKERS, the British engineering company which is in talks to sell Rolls Royce motors to the Germans, has poached a Belgian from BTR to be its new chief executive.

The only snag is, no-one at Vickers seems to know how Paul Buysse pronounces his name.

Mr Buysse, 53, is executive director responsible for a clutch of businesses at BTR including power drives, environmental technology and the rail division,

with a combined turnover of £1.9bn. A spokeswoman for Vickers says she thinks his name is pronounced "Boy-ee-sah", although the subject remains open to debate.

The spokeswoman adds that Mr Buysse will not be using the title conferred on him by the King of the Belgians, King Baudouin, that of "Chevalier Paul Buysse", that country's equivalent of a knighthood. "Chevalier Buysse" would be a bit of a mouthful, I suppose.

He succeeds Sir Colin Chandler, who continues as chairman of Vickers. Sir Colin himself succeeded Sir Richard Lloyd as chairman, and 12 months ago agreed to stand in as chief executive for a year whilst a new chief executive officer was found.

Vickers is keen to use Mr Buysse's experience and international contacts. He helped design and implement BTR's strategy of changing itself from a diversified conglomerate to a focused engineering group. Vickers is undergoing a similar process, with the car business about to be off-loaded, and the possibility of the Challenger tank business being merged with GKN's Warrior armoured car operation.

The Vickers spokeswoman had no comment to make on that score, but did say that talks with BMW over Rolls Royce are "fairly intense at the moment". BMW's exclusive right to sales talks is about to run out, leaving Volkswagen with a ray of hope.

TO CONTINUE the internationalist theme, the deputy chairman of Liffe who was born in Canada of Dutch parents and educated in Columbia, Denmark and England, is leaving UBS to take over as group chief executive of Credit Lyonnais Rouse (CLR), the French-owned derivatives house.

Phew. Clara Furze, 40, is global head of futures and options at UBS and has been a board member at Liffe since 1990. She is not hanging around to see how the "merger" with SBC will go, however. Her new employers have "a very international business - they're very strong in commodities and in Asia," she says. Her new job will also give her wider responsibilities, she adds.

But what of the increasing competition from Frankfurt and Paris for Liffe's business? Should the London market ditch the open outcry traders

with their ghastly yellow blazers and follow the continentals with their screen-based derivatives trading?

"The exchange (Liffe) has always been a hybrid exchange," says Ms Furze. "The board recognised a year ago that we would have to invest in a new (screen based) system." She sees the old and new systems running side by side in London, and is dismissive of the threat from across the channel. Will London win? "I don't think there's any doubt at all," she says.

IT HAD to happen, I suppose. I refer to the "rebranding" of Caledonia Investments, the annoyingly successful vehicle run by the Cayzer family. The Cayzers, old Tories and old money, have finally decided to break with tradition and promote a quartet of non-family plebs to the board.

The new appointments will, however, only be "associate" directors. The lucky oils are Graeme Denison, who became Caledonia's finance director in 1992. Tony Carter, group taxation manager who joined nine years ago, Paul Whiteley, finance manager who joined in 1989 and John Mehrteus, administration manager who enlisted in 1991,

Not that the current, family-dominated board is amateurish. I hasten to add. Paul Buckley, Caledonia's chairman, and Sir David Kinloch, deputy chief executive, are both chartered accountants, for instance.

The Cayzer family did spectacularly well by selling its family business British & Commonwealth to John Gann in the 1980s, just before the business fell apart. Caledonia promptly bought what bits it wanted back afterwards. I hope such aristocratic brio will not be lost in the new, proletarian Caledonia.

I'VE heard of glass ceilings but this is stretching it a bit.

The Society of Dyers & Colourists has just appointed its first ever woman president in its 114 years existence. Dr Veronica Bell, founder and owner of a textile printing and dyeing company in Harrogate, has got the top job for the first time since the society was founded in Bradford in 1884. Dr Bell's company Veebech is a dyeing and printing business which specialises in the top end of the market. She has chosen as her theme for the year: "The SDC... A force for the future." And not a moment too soon.

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## Footsie recovers quickly from Monday's panic

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

SHARES recaptured more than half of Monday's panic fall, with Footsie rallying 84.2 points to 5,806.6.

Although fears of higher US interest rates eased, the stock market remained fragile with the conviction growing that equities could be in for an unexciting summer.

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of stockbroker The Share Centre, pointed out that this year's splendid run was not particularly unusual. In the December to April period shares had made headway in 23 of the past 24 years.

He added: "This is usually followed by a rather subdued period with the average movement just 2 per cent from May to September. The likelihood is that we will see a similar pattern this year. After all, markets both here and in America have been looking for an excuse to go down and now have two: Japan and interest rates."

Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown (NatWest Securities as was) are also cautious: "The equity market is in for a difficult few months. We stick to our year-end Footsie target of 6,000," they say.

As is so often the case, a strong Footsie advance was accompanied by rumours of corporate action - Royal Bank of Scotland, up 46p to 911p, was the name in the frame. Stories swirled of a deal with Scottish Widows, the insurance and pension mutual.

Presumably it would involve Royal Bank buying Widows, which would mean a windfall bonanza for the mutual's members.

The two seem a natural fit and rumours of a deal have often circulated. Trading links have been established and last summer there was a whiff of controversy when Widows paid 601p apiece for 33.4 million new Royal Bank shares.

lifting its stake to 4.69 per cent. There was dismay in some quarters that the new shares were only made available to Widows.

Royal Bank did offer just a touch of corporate action. It acquired the outstanding 49 per cent of RBS Advanta from Fleet Financial of Boston. The company is one of the fastest growing credit card businesses in this country.

Norwich Union bounced 22.5p to 442.5p and other financials in recovery mode included Bank of Scotland, up 25p to 710p, and Standard Chartered, 23p to 893p.

Scottish & Newcastle's streamlining was worth 41p to 877p and figures lifted Sears 4.25p to 59.75p. Hard-pressed Next drew a little comfort from Sears, gaining 24p to 500p.

Debenhams remained the retail flavour of the week, up 12p to 386p following its results-inspired 26.5p gain on

Monday, SBC Warburg moved from hold to buy.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, firmed 11p to 273.5p. Bid talks collapsed in February. This month the shares have edged ahead, reviving hopes that corporate action could re-emerge. Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based tycoon, has approached 30 per cent of Christies and is

keen, it would appear, to realise his investment.

Glaxo Wellcome jumped 60p to 1,607p on Goldman Sachs backing but Reed International failed to respond to Henderson Crutshwaite support, falling 6.5p to 557p. Bass, up 25p to 1,112p and Whitbread, 15p to 1,045p, were encouraged by upgrades by Warburg; Allied Domecq, ahead of figures tomorrow, put on 4.5p to 622p.

Jefferson Smarfit hardened to 216.5p after the packaging and paper group confirmed a long-running suspicion that it was in talks to merge its 46.5p per cent US offshoot with another American group.

Ashtead, the plant hire group, improved 5p to 260p, a peak. Fund managers and analysts are examining its US operations.

MSB International, the IT group, gained 32.5p to 970p on reports that Mark

Goldberg is on the verge of selling around 18.5 per cent of the capital to finance his take over of relegated Crystal Palace football club.

Spargo Consulting strengthened 6p to 261.5p after reporting "significant progress" and Aspen, the communications group, held at 110p following sales by Photobition, which saw its takeover approach rebuffed earlier this month. It cut its stake to 2.1 per cent, selling shares at 90p. At one time the printing services group had 2.9 per cent.

Profit disappointment took its inevitable toll. Carrs Milling tumbled 17.5p to 138.5p and S&U, the credit group, 27.5p to 362.5p.

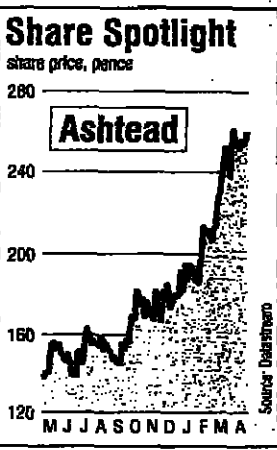
Hi-Tec, the trainers group, enjoyed the day's best run, gaining 33 per cent to 51.5p after disclosing it was seeking a US partner, presumably willing to bid for full control. UK Estates rose 3p to 25.5p on chairman David Gradel's 27p-a-share bid plan.

## TAKING STOCK

STOCKBROKER Teather & Greenwood makes its stock market debut tomorrow. Its reverse take over of NRR an AIM-listed property and cash shell formerly called Nationwide Residential Properties, has been completed. Shares were placed at 70p, against the 69.5p suspension in January. T&G was one of the City's last remaining stockbroker partnerships.

WATERMARK, an advertising and marketing specialist, should produce profits of around £1.2m this year, believes stockbroker Duracher. Last year the AIM-listed company, which plans a full listing, made £1m, up from £653,000. The shares were little changed at 47.5p.

JOHN LUSTY, the food group paying £5.4m for a distributor of Mediterranean foods, has lost its biggest private shareholder, DR Rapoport. He sold 12.5 million shares (7.6 per cent), seemingly at 10p. The shares shaded 0.25p to 11.75p.



52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
12	140	120	Alcoholic Beverages	120.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
13	150	130	140	130.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
14	160	140	150	140.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
15	170	150	160	150.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
16	180	160	170	160.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
17	190	170	180	170.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
18	200	180	190	180.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
19	210	190	200	190.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
20	220	200	210	200.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
21	230	210	220	210.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
22	240	220	230	220.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
23	250	230	240	230.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
24	260	240	250	240.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
25	270	250	260	250.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
26	280	260	270	260.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
27	290	270	280	270.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
28	300	280	290	280.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
29	310	290	300	290.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
30	320	300	310	300.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
31	330	310	320	310.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
32	340	320	330	320.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
33	350	330	340	330.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
34	360	340	350	340.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
35	370	350	360	350.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
36	380	360	370	360.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
37	390	370	380	370.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
38	400	380	390	380.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
39	410	390	400	390.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
40	420	400	410	400.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
41	430	410	420	410.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
42	440	420	430	420.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
43	450	430	440	430.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
44	460	440	450	440.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
45	470	450	460	450.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
46	480	460	470	460.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
47	490	470	480	470.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
48	500	480	490	480.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
49	510	490	500	490.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
50	520	500	510	500.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
51	530	510	520	510.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
52	540	520	530	520.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
1	100	80	100	80.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
2	110	90	110	90.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
3	120	100	120	100.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
4	130	110	130	110.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
5	140	120	140	120.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
6	150	130	150	130.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
7	160	140	160	140.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
8	170	150	170	150.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
9	180	160	180	160.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
10	190	170	190	170.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
11	200	180	200	180.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
12	210	190	210	190.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
13	220	200	220	200.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
14	230	210	230	210.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
15	240	220	240	220.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
16	250	230	250	230.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
17	260	240	260	240.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
18	270	250	270	250.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
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24	330	310	330	310.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
25	340	320	340	320.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
26	350	330	350	330.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
27	360	340	360	340.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
28	370	350	370	350.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
29	380	360	380	360.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
30	390	370	390	370.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
31	400	380	400	380.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
32	410	390	410	390.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
33	420	400	420	400.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
34	430	410	430	410.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
35	440	420	440	420.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
36	450	430	450	430.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
37	460	440	460	440.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
38	470	450	470	450.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
39	480	460	480	460.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
40	490	470	490	470.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
41	500	480	500	480.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
42	510	490	510	490.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
43	520	500	520	500.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
44	530	510	530	510.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
45	540	520	540	520.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
46	550	530	550	530.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
47	560	540	560	540.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
48	570	550	570	550.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
49	580	560	580	560.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
50	590	570	590	570.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
51	600	580	600	580.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
52	610	590	610	590.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00

52 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
1	100	80	100	80.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
2	110	90	110	90.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
3	120	100	120	100.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
4	130	110	130	110.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
5	140	120	140	120.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
6	150	130	150	130.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
7	160	140	160	140.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
8	170	150	170	150.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
9	180	160	180	160.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
10	190	170	190	170.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
11	200	180	200	180.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
12	210	190	210	190.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
13	220	200	220	200.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
14	230	210	230	210.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
15	240	220	240	220.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
16	250	230	250	230.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
17	260	240	260	240.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
18	270	250	270	250.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
19	280	260	280	260.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
20	290	270	290	270.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
21	300	280	300	280.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
22	310	290	310	290.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
23	320	300	320	300.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
24	330	310	330	310.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
25	340	320	340	320.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
26	350	330	350	330.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
27	360	340	360	340.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
28	370	350	370	350.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
29	380	360	380	360.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
30	390	370	390	370.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
31	400	380	400	380.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
32	410	390	410	390.00	+10.00	10.00	10.00
33	420	400	420	400.00	+10.00	10.00	10.



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## 23/UNIT TRUSTS

Country	Sterling			Dollar			D-Mark
	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	
UK	10000			10000			
Australia	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Canada	71773	71040	20579	61039	61039	61039	08644
Berlin	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Belgium	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Denmark	11426	11426	11426	1078	1078	11035	03121
France	90877	90877	90877	60063	60063	60063	03121
Germany	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Greece	11426	11426	11426	1078	1078	11035	03121
India	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Indonesia	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Japan	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Malaysia	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Netherlands	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
New Zealand	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Portugal	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Spain	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
South Africa	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Sweden	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Switzerland	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Taiwan	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Thailand	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
U.S.A.	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
U.K.	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
West Germany	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644
Yugoslavia	25842	25842	25872	15257	15257	15591	08644

US	16673				
Other Spot Rates					
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	5673	10000	Oman	6578	36949
Australia	5183	114 1/2	Pakistan	73778	42250
Brazil	3363	8278	Philippines	66324	36745
Canada	5183	33097	Poland	56509	30408
Chad/Rep	3403	6102	Romania	67022	38485
Egypt	56738		Russia	10200	31500
FRG	38515	23110	South Korea	22667	53750
Hungary	25055	20225	Taiwan	55048	61000
India	65284	38735	Thailand	61221	38550
Italy	52079	80550	Turkey	38550	54510
Japan	50598	02053	U.S.A.	54510	36730
Kenya			Yemen	36730	

Interest Rates			
UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base 7.25%	Discount	Prime 8.50%	Discount 0.6%
France	Lombard 4.60%	Discount	Belgium 2.7%
Intervention 3.30%	Canada	Fed Funds 5.44%	Discount 3.3%
Italy	Prime 6.50%	Spain	Switzerland
Discount 5.00%	Discount	10-d Repo 4.50%	Switzerland 10.2%
Netherlands	Denmark	Sweden	Discount
	Denmark 3.50%	Repo (Ave.) 4.35%	Lombard 3.2%

Country	3mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	480	-0.01	476	0.07	487	0.08	451	0.09	575	0.08
Belgium	381	0.02	381	0.00	428	-0.05	463	0.00	516	0.01
Canada	381	0.02	511	-0.03	510	-0.02	530	-0.02	545	-0.01
ECU	428	0.03	428	0.01	426	-0.02	472	-0.01	503	-0.01
France	000	0.00	377	0.03	415	-0.06	489	-0.01	508	-0.01
Germany	480	0.02	359	0.01	413	-0.02	484	-0.02	503	-0.01
Italy	506	0.02	465	0.01	452	-0.03	492	-0.02	527	-0.01
Japan	047	0.00	044	-0.01	050	-0.01	107	-0.02	174	-0.01
Netherlands	362	0.04	432	-0.01	435	-0.03	473	-0.02	520	-0.01
Spain	459	0.00	432	0.02	437	-0.01	504	-0.01	538	-0.01
Sweden	459	0.00	459	0.00	455	-0.01	508	-0.01	533	-0.01
Switzerland	150	0.01	163	0.02	202	0.00	247	-0.03	303	-0.01
UK	685	0.00	744	0.02	760	-0.05	612	-0.03	669	-0.01
U.S.	685	0.00	716	-0.02	658	-0.04	574	-0.01	577	-0.01

Money Market Rates											
	Overnight		1 week		1 month		3 months		6 months		1
					700	695	700	695			
Treasury Bills											
LIBOR											
Domestic Depos	719	731	709	735	734	741	738	744	738	744	731
Eurosterling Depos	726	731	728	734	734	741	738	744	738	744	731
Big Bank Bills					723	707	723	717	722	716	
Starling CDs					739	733	740	734	737	731	
European CDs					558		561	551			
EU Deposits					419	431	416	428	415	428	

Life Financial Futures				East floor	Op
		Settlement	High	Low	Open
Contract					
Long Gilt	Jun-86	106.3	106.3	102.81	103.00
Long Gilt	Oct-86	102.93	102.93	102.81	103.00
German Bund	Jun-86	105.67	105.69	102.23	102.50
Italian Bond	Jun-86	70.87		106.28	107.00
Japan Gov	Jun-86	92.58	92.58	92.56	92.50
Japan Gov	Mar-86	92.76	92.76	92.76	92.75
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	96.28	96.29	96.27	96.25
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	96.13	96.14	96.11	96.05
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	96.03	96.03	96.03	96.00
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	95.76	95.76	95.69	95.60
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	95.36	95.36	95.32	95.30
3 Mth Euramx	Sep-86	95.15	95.15	95.12	95.10
3 Mth ECU	Sep-86	96.77	96.77	95.75	95.70
3 Mth ECU	Sep-86	96.78	96.78	95.76	95.70
3 Mth ECU	Sep-86	96.80	96.80	95.78	95.70

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option									
Settlement Price: 5806.60									
Series	Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Jun Call	Put	Jul Call	Put	Aug Call
5750	124	30	137	23	237	225	304	265	368
5800	95	28	163	22	207	245	274	285	339
5850	78	27	193	21	180	272	246	302	370
5900	58	26	225	20	159	301	224	338	289

	Base date	Last	Chg	%chg	31 Dec	%
Index	1970 = 100	165.26	0.9F	0.54	235.26	
Agricultural	1970 = 100	207.07	0.43	0.21	231.23	
Energy	1985 = 100	58.12	0.67	1.17	55.86	
Ind Metals	1977 = 100	156.50	0.00	0.00	168.79	
Livestock	1970 = 100	179.52	-0.25	-0.14	191.03	
Prec Metals	1973 = 100	414.59	-2.51	-0.60	463.54	

\* prices at

Crude \$/barrel				Gas oil \$(/tonne)				WTI Crude \$(/barrel)				Products \$(/barrel)	
IPE	Clos	Chg	Vol	IPE	Clos	Chg	Vol	NYM	Latd	Chg	Spot	CIF N	Spot
Jun 14.97	0.14	212.23	May	134.25	0.75	45.04	Jun	15.46	0.17	Gasoline 95			
Jul 14.68	0.16	198.82	Jun	135.75	0.50	39.90	Jul	15.96	0.50	Naphtha			
Aug 14.94	0.15	204.14	Jul	136.00	0.50	42.02	Aug	16.38	0.21	Jet A1			
								Sep	16.63	0.19	Fuel Oil 35%		

Industrial Metals					
	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg	UME spot
UME (Shonne)					5,308.26
Aluminum Hg	14475	14485	1772	9	495.4
Aluminum Alloy	1301	1310	1333	13.35	1
Copper A	1867	1869	2677	1578	-1
Lead	561	562	565	578	1
Nickel	5483	5485	5500	5685	26.55
Tin	5603	5650	5720	5750	5
Zinc	10935	10945	1120	1121	-3

	pm fix/\$ per oz		pm fix/E per oz		Coins (\$)					
	Days chg	Year's chg	Days chg	Year's chg						
Platinum	-408.50	1.90	344.55		Platinum	245.00	0.90	13.69	Kruglands	31
Palladium	372.00	2.00	214.25		Palladium	222.75	1.50	12.35	Sovs	7
Silver	6.14	-0.08	1.41		Silver	3.68	-0.05	0.77	Nobles	40
Gold	308.45	-1.20	-31.73						Maple Leaf	32

**Agricultural**

[illegible]

100 Largest Insurance Funds		Fund		Assets	
		Dom	Other		
1	MetLife	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
2	Prudential	99.0	0.0	99.0	0.0
3	Equity	98.0	0.0	98.0	0.0
4	MetLife	97.0	0.0	97.0	0.0
5	MetLife	96.0	0.0	96.0	0.0
6	MetLife	95.0	0.0	95.0	0.0
7	MetLife	94.0	0.0	94.0	0.0
8	MetLife	93.0	0.0	93.0	0.0
9	MetLife	92.0	0.0	92.0	0.0
10	MetLife	91.0	0.0	91.0	0.0
11	MetLife	90.0	0.0	90.0	0.0
12	MetLife	89.0	0.0	89.0	0.0
13	MetLife	88.0	0.0	88.0	0.0
14	MetLife	87.0	0.0	87.0	0.0
15	MetLife	86.0	0.0	86.0	0.0
16	MetLife	85.0	0.0	85.0	0.0
17	MetLife	84.0	0.0	84.0	0.0
18	MetLife	83.0	0.0	83.0	0.0
19	MetLife	82.0	0.0	82.0	0.0
20	MetLife	81.0	0.0	81.0	0.0
21	MetLife	80.0	0.0	80.0	0.0
22	MetLife	79.0	0.0	79.0	0.0
23	MetLife	78.0	0.0	78.0	0.0
24	MetLife	77.0	0.0	77.0	0.0
25	MetLife	76.0	0.0	76.0	0.0
26	MetLife	75.0	0.0	75.0	0.0
27	MetLife	74.0	0.0	74.0	0.0
28	MetLife	73.0	0.0	73.0	0.0
29	MetLife	72.0	0.0	72.0	0.0
30	MetLife	71.0	0.0	71.0	0.0
31	MetLife	70.0	0.0	70.0	0.0
32	MetLife	69.0	0.0	69.0	0.0
33	MetLife	68.0	0.0	68.0	0.0
34	MetLife	67.0	0.0	67.0	0.0
35	MetLife	66.0	0.0	66.0	0.0
36	MetLife	65.0	0.0	65.0	0.0
37	MetLife	64.0	0.0	64.0	0.0
38	MetLife	63.0	0.0	63.0	0.0
39	MetLife	62.0	0.0	62.0	0.0
40	MetLife	61.0	0.0	61.0	0.0
41	MetLife	60.0	0.0	60.0	0.0
42	MetLife	59.0	0.0	59.0	0.0
43	MetLife	58.0	0.0	58.0	0.0
44	MetLife	57.0	0.0	57.0	0.0
45	MetLife	56.0	0.0	56.0	0.0
46	MetLife	55.0	0.0	55.0	0.0
47	MetLife	54.0	0.0	54.0	0.0
48	MetLife	53.0	0.0	53.0	0.0
49	MetLife	52.0	0.0	52.0	0.0
50	MetLife	51.0	0.0	51.0	0.0
51	MetLife	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0
52	MetLife	49.0	0.0	49.0	0.0
53	MetLife	48.0	0.0	48.0	0.0
54	MetLife	47.0	0.0	47.0	0.0
55	MetLife	46.0	0.0	46.0	0.0
56	MetLife	45.0	0.0	45.0	0.0
57	MetLife	44.0	0.0	44.0	0.0
58	MetLife	43.0	0.0	43.0	0.0
59	MetLife	42.0	0.0	42.0	0.0
60	MetLife	41.0	0.0	41.0	0.0
61	MetLife	40.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
62	MetLife	39.0	0.0	39.0	0.0
63	MetLife	38.0	0.0	38.0	0.0
64	MetLife	37.0	0.0	37.0	0.0
65	MetLife	36.0	0.0	36.0	0.0
66	MetLife	35.0	0.0	35.0	0.0
67	MetLife	34.0	0.0	34.0	0.0
68	MetLife	33.0	0.0	33.0	0.0
69	MetLife	32.0	0.0	32.0	0.0
70	MetLife	31.0	0.0	31.0	0.0
71	MetLife	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0
72	MetLife	29.0	0.0	29.0	0.0
73	MetLife	28.0	0.0	28.0	0.0
74	MetLife	27.0	0.0	27.0	0.0
75	MetLife	26.0	0.0	26.0	0.0
76	MetLife	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
77	MetLife	24.0	0.0	24.0	0.0
78	MetLife	23.0	0.0	23.0	0.0
79	MetLife	22.0	0.0	22.0	0.0
80	MetLife	21.0	0.0	21.0	0.0
81	MetLife	20.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
82	MetLife	19.0	0.0	19.0	0.0
83	MetLife	18.0	0.0	18.0	0.0
84	MetLife	17.0	0.0	17.0	0.0
85	MetLife	16.0	0.0	16.0	0.0
86	MetLife	15.0	0.0	15.0	0.0
87	MetLife	14.0	0.0	14.0	0.0
88	MetLife	13.0	0.0	13.0	0.0
89	MetLife	12.0	0.0	12.0	0.0
90	MetLife	11.0	0.0	11.0	0.0
91	MetLife	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0
92	MetLife	9.0	0.0	9.0	0.0
93	MetLife	8.0	0.0	8.0	0.0
94	MetLife	7.0	0.0	7.0	0.0
95	MetLife	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0
96	MetLife	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.0
97	MetLife	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0
98	MetLife	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
99	MetLife	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
100	MetLife	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0

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It has never been easier to run a business from home and to work on the move. In a special report, we survey the range of possibilities

# Technology tailored to your needs

By Harvey Morris

USING off-the-shelf computer hardware and software, it is now possible to run a small business – even a home-based one – that only a decade ago would have required its own premises and the services of accountants, printers, salesmen and short-hand typists.

Computers can't make the morning coffee yet, but no doubt that will come.

Costs will vary but a reasonable global sum to set aside to computerise your business is £3,000. This will cover the ba-

**'Don't spend a fortune if you need only routine letters and invoices'**

sic computer and communications set-up, give you the ability to fax, e-mail and handle your accounts. On top of that, you will need more advanced software, depending on what kind of business you are in.

It is important to make a checklist to determine your needs. There is no point, for instance, in spending lots of money on equipment that can turn out ultra-high quality graphics if you require only text-based functions.

If you are starting from scratch, aim for as high-powered a computer as you can afford: a Pentium II system running

Windows 95 or Windows NT, or a Power Mac, are regarded as the small-business standard.

Consider buying your system directly from a reliable mail order supplier such as Dan, Dell or Gateway rather than from a high street store. They are usually better placed to tailor and deliver a system to your specific needs and most have a good standard of after sales service, particularly if you pay for continuing, on-site support.

Ask for a system that comes with a suite of business software installed, such as Microsoft Office 97. If you are going to be handling your own accounts, you can also buy fairly cheap financial management packages such as Microsoft's Money 98 suite or Quicken. You can use these programs to track not just income and expenditure but also to keep a running check on tax and VAT liabilities.

You will also need a modem installed if you want to send and receive e-mail and if you want your computer to handle faxes. You will also want an Internet account, if only to hunt down potential clients.

There are a number of programmes available on the Internet that let you look up the addresses of specific categories of potential customers according to their geographical location, although at the moment these tend to be heavily weighted towards the United States. In the future, you may also want to use the Internet to receive payment for your goods and services on-line.

Whatever business you are in, you will need a printer. But don't spend a fortune on a state-of-the-art laser printer if



you only need to produce routine, professional-looking letters and invoices – a high street ink-jet printer, at around £200, together with your installed office software, will do.

If you are going to be doing

a significant amount of photocopying as part of your business, you might want to invest in a dedicated copier. But they are expensive. For routine photocopying you can use a scanner. This need not cost you much

more than £100 and it can also be used to scan illustrations to go with product information that can then be faxed or e-mailed to your clients.

You don't need to buy a separate fax machine. All new PCs

fitted with a modem come with software that enables you to send and receive faxes direct from your computer. It can also handle your incoming fax messages and voice calls while you are away from the office.

Straight fax is now regarded in the on-line world as an "interim technology", a polite way of saying it's out of date.

E-mail is much more versatile because it allows you to integrate incoming material – say

Running your business from home: a reasonable sum for the equipment would be £3,000

a purchase order – into your computer database without having to retype it.

What if you work with a number of other people in separate locations and you want to be able to work as a group? Netscape, the Internet browser makers, have just come up with a service that allows you to rent your own private office on the Internet for a small monthly fee. This gives you the ability to share files and information over the Internet with your colleagues.

What can go wrong? Lots. Computers are sensitive beasts and can suddenly crash for no apparent reason. You could lose all your valuable data – a nightmare for any small business. It's therefore good insurance to have a renewable on-site service agreement with your hardware supplier, although this won't cover software glitches. To have a service contract that covers your whole system is usually prohibitively expensive for a home business.

But do invest in a Jaz or Zip drive. These are high-capacity floppy drives that can hold up to one gigabyte of information on a single disc. Get into the habit of regularly backing up your entire drive.

If everything crashes and you aren't backed up, don't panic. There are lots of small data recovery firms that advertise in the specialist magazines offering to recover the contents of your hard drive.

## Making sense of the phone options

ONCE upon a time, there were two people. They were self-employed and they each had a telephone. Then one day they decided to form a partnership. They brought their phones together, and they started to think: O.K., so how do we get these to talk to each other, so we can pass people over and swap calls?

And that's how it starts. You need more than one line, or more than one person answering calls to the one number.

You will need to know a few things: why it is important to have digital services (because all those options you get when a company is keeping you on hold need a digital signal to activate them) and what actual difference it makes whether you have a wireless system or something cabled. And above all, how much it will cost you.

A useful first port of call is British Telecom, which remains the first option for most companies for the moment. Usefully, it sells modular systems so you can build them up as you go.

The BT Revelation supports up to four lines with 12 extensions, which can take phones, fax or answering machines and even a doorphone with a security latch. You can take three-way calls and you'll need a few BT Revelation System-phones on the network.

A little more up-market is the Meridian Norstar Compact, also sold by BT. It can handle up to six exchange lines and 16 extensions but, again, it is modular, so you can buy as you

Whatever your phone needs, Guy Clapperton says start with modular systems to build as you go

need. A starter kit of one central control unit and three M7310 Systemphones will cost you £11.65 plus VAT.

The competition has been quick to respond to BT's challenge. Cable and Wireless has been marketing aggressively in the UK for some time and is selling heavily on service. If you want to look like a local company to your customers, C&W will give you a local number and divert it to your HQ miles away. It will divert your calls to any non-mobile phone out of office hours, and you can choose your own number for a price.

An alternative is to talk to a local cable company, most of which are hungry for market share and therefore likely to offer a service virtually at cost initially.

These organisations vary from area to area, but it is worth checking on them with an existing customer before taking the plunge – they often cut costs by using the cheapest subcontractor to do the cabling, and this sometimes means inexperienced labour is taken on.

It is also worth bearing in mind that, in the office, a cabled system means rearranging wires every time you change the office layout. If your company will be playing musical chairs often,

plump for Digitally Enhanced Cordless Telephones (DECT).

DECT is a digital system for cordless phones. This means it is more secure, the signal is stronger and the call is clearer (often as good as on a wired-in phone).

What is more, the system can handle multiple handsets from one point, each of which can pick up calls from several lines. This makes it a good way of setting up an ad hoc exchange in your office. DECT is quite expensive but it may be worth the price for the added flexibility and the reduced disruption.

Then there comes the time when you're out of the office but still want to be in touch. This is where a mobile phone is the obvious answer, but there are refinements you can add.

For example, Vodafone's Corporateworld system lets you integrate your mobile and deskbound telephones and treat the mobile versions as if they were ordinary extensions. This means your customers don't know whether they are being put through to you while you're in the office or visiting a client.

It means you don't lose calls through people not bothering to follow up when the reception-

ist tells them they can try you on your mobile. It's useful if you're likely to be on the road a lot, and Vodafone says customers with as few as fifty phones have been able to save money using it, so don't be put off by the name.

Failing that, pagers can be indispensable. You can go for numeric or text models; the numeric ones are cheaper and will tell you which number to call and not much else, unless you work out some sort of code.

The running costs will be more than the initial outlay on the product; BT starts off with its EasyReach service for home users and extremely small businesses, the basic version of which costs a one-off £39.99 plus 25p per call for a numeric service only. Text costs more, and there are advanced services for larger companies.

Future developments will come from elsewhere. Internet companies are starting to realise that there is mileage to be made connecting their customers through the Net, so you could get an international call for the same cost as a local one.

Computer Telephony Integration (CTI) is a flashy way of saying you can hitch your phone system to the computer which will then act as a voicemail or fax message centre, helping to log calls and manage your communications for you. This is a heck of a leap for smaller businesses but it will become increasingly common as long as the millennium bug doesn't murder us all in our beds.

**GOOD LUCK OLD MAN!**

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THE INDEPENDENT  
WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 1998  
26

26/SMALL OFFICE, HOME OFFICE

# Getting wired to the Web

Intimidated by the Internet? Harvey Morris provides a beginner's guide to cyber-surfing

IT SEEMS only five minutes ago that the Internet was being dismissed as the preserve of geeks and paedophiles. Now everything from primary schools to the corner shop seems to be "wired" and you are starting to think you have missed the boat. Never fear. Only a fraction of people – even in the developed world – are on-line. So there is plenty of time to catch up.

Taking it from the bottom up, you need three things to get on-line: a computer, a modem and an Internet service provider. Entry-level home PCs or Macs now retail for less than £1,000 and most packages include a modem, which connects you to the Internet via your regular phone line. Modems are rated according to their speed, generally 28K, 33K or 56K. Do not worry about what the numbers mean. Just remember, the higher the number, the faster the connection and avoid anything under 28K.

Next, you will need to link up to an Internet service provider, an ISP. This could be a big telecom company such as BT, or one of the on-line services such as AOL or CompuServe that also provide tailor-made information services as part of their packages. Monthly fees can vary from £5 to £15 a month, depending on what is provided. Do not forget that you pay for your phone connections on top of that, so the more you surf, the more you spend. Buy any of the monthly specialist magazines, such as *Internet.net* or *Internet Works*, to find lists of service providers. The magazines usually include CD-Rom discs promoting free one-month trials of selected Internet providers. If you're happy with the service you try, you

can sign up on-line using your credit card.

There are three things to look out for when going on-line: make sure the ISP offers local call access (if you live in Leeds, you don't want to be dialling up London every time you wish to get on to the Net); next, make sure the ISP offers you an e-mail address, so that you can e-mail all your "wired" friends and tell them you have joined the 20th century; finally, find out if the ISP offers free web space (five megabytes is the standard) for when you decide to start publishing. Your ISP will also give you a browser, usually from Netscape or Microsoft. This is a piece of software that allows you to tune in to web sites. Again, they are always available

on magazine CD-Roms and they are free.

So, you are logged on. What next? What is the Internet anyway? And who runs it? The Internet, or at least the bit you will be most interested in at first – the World-Wide Web – is just a collection of computers, ranging from desktops like yours to huge mainframes, all linked up via the phone line.

Nobody runs the Internet, although various authorities in the United States and elsewhere have responsibility for assigning addresses – all those ".coms" and ".co.uk"s you come across. Your browser will invariably open up at your ISP's site but it is easy to change that later on. Just click on highlighted "links" to move from site to site to find

what is available on the Net or tap in a keyword on one of the big search engines like Yahoo or Infoseek, which catalogue web sites. You will soon find you can locate anything, from bus timetables in Latvia to the runners in the 3:30 at Kempton. That is fun for a while, but the real kick comes when you start publishing for yourself.

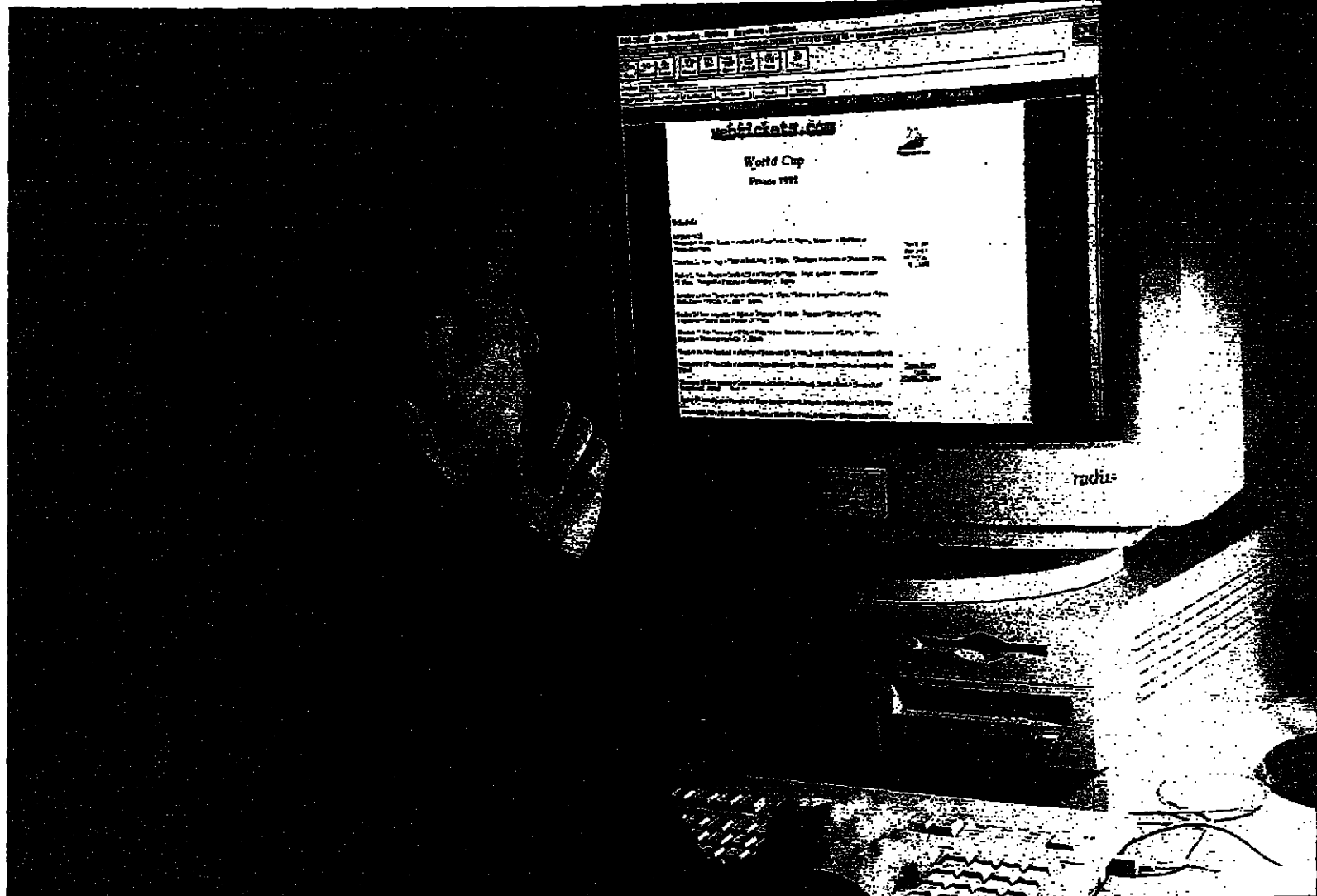
Start by using the free space your ISP has assigned to you. What you need to do is find out from the ISP how to upload files to their computer. From there, your pages will be constantly available to the rest of the world. So-called FTP software for uploading your files usually comes free as part of your subscription. You will also get a web site address that's

unique to you. It will not be very user-friendly – something like "www.myprovider.com/joesmith123/homepage" – but then you are not paying for it. To get a more memorable address – such as "www.joesmith.com" – will cost you about £50 to set up plus another £30 or so a year. Practise with the free space from the ISP to see how you go.

The files you upload must be in hypertext mark-up language, HTML. Do not be put off. That is just plain text that you can write on a word processor, plus some special code which is not that different from old-style printers' marks on paper. The code tells the browser how the page is to be displayed. The easiest way to construct a page is to get hold of another piece of software called

an HTML editor. At the beginning, look for one that is WYSIWYG or "What You See Is What You Get". Microsoft make one called FrontPage (Claris Home Page is designed for Macs) and, again, you can usually find a free trial on a magazine disc. You type up your page as you would on a word processor, add some illustrations, and the software does the rest. Look at other people's pages to see how your page might look.

One final tip: every piece of software you'll ever need, and every bit of advice on how to use it, is available from your desktop once you're hooked up to the Internet. And the specialist magazines are packed with information on how to find what where. Happy surfing!



The future is on-line: with basic and user-friendly equipment your pages will be constantly available to the rest of the world

## Ensure success, insure properly

By Lee Rodwell

WHEN Carol Winter went back to work after a five-year break she looked for a job which would fit around her family. Now, like a growing number of working mothers, she runs her own business from home.

Carol bought a franchise and for the past two years she has been running a nanny agency from the guest bedroom which doubles as an office in her North Finchley house.

One of the first things she did was to check out insurance cover. She says: "Being a franchisee gives me group professional indemnity insurance, but I also contacted my household insurers, to see if I was covered if a would-be nanny came for an interview and fell down the stairs. I also wanted to know if the computers and fax machine which I use for work needed to be covered separately."

Fortunately, Carol was told she did not need to take out any additional business insurance. And, because the house is never empty during the day, the premiums actually fell.

According to Ray Temple, underwriting manager for Tolson Messenger's Home-Business schemes, household insurers have recently become more enlightened about extending their standard contents policies to meet the needs of people who work from home. However, he points out that it is important to let household insurers know if you are intending to use your home as a workplace, and to make sure that the cover they offer is adequate for your needs.

"It's pretty typical for there to be a £5,000 limit for office equipment," he says. "That's fine if you only have a computer or two and no stock. But it's no use for people like graphic designers who need more expensive state-of-the-art hardware and software. That is why a stand-alone policy, like

one of our Home-Business ones, which can cover up to £20,000 worth of equipment and supplies, may be better."

In fact, working from home, seen through the eyes of an insurance broker, seems a pretty dangerous affair, fraught with awful possibilities.

A client arrives, trips over a frayed carpet in your hallway and breaks a leg. Your dog bites the woman who comes in three times a week to do your paperwork. You visit a client in his office, spill your coffee over his computer and bring his whole business to a sudden halt.

Unlikely? Perhaps, but Mr Temple points out the wisdom of envisaging the worst possible scenario. "Take the recent bad weather," he says. "Suppose your home had been flooded. Your household insurance may provide for you to be rehoused in temporary accommodation while renovations are carried out. That may seem all right, but would you still be able to run a business from a B-and-B?"

"We have one client whose house needs underpinning because of subsidence. It's full of dust, he can't concentrate on his writing, so we're contributing to his renting another house until the work is done."

S-Tech Insurance Services is another established home-worker policy provider. Like Tolson Messenger, their minimum premium costs £125 a year. Managing director Sean Walker says: "The problem with household policies being extended for business use is that they are trying to be all things to all men. Inevitably there will be gaps. You may not be covered for employer's liability, public liability or professional indemnity."

"In our view, anyone working at home, bringing in the household's main income, should go for stand-alone insurance. After all, it can be put down as a genuine business expense."

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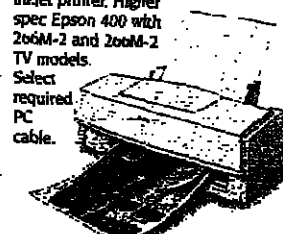
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# Time points to Hand as an alternative to Xaar

XAAR and Xaar again. That is the message from Chris Wright, who compiles *Timeform*'s respected time figures about the probable outcome of Saturday's 2,000 Guineas.

Wright says: "Xaar recorded a time of 1m 5.4s when winning the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket last year. That is a figure which is a normal year, is considered a Class 1 winning standard."

Xaar's achievement that figure is a testament to his will to have made normal improvement.

The clock backs the Guineas favourite and indicates his chief rivals. Ian Davies reports

cent figure last year and was thought to be wrong when beaten by Xaar in the Dewhurst. He might not well, but perhaps the most interesting each-way prospect is Lend A Hand.

"He notched a figure of 110 when winning a Doncaster nursery last year and, although we don't rate Italian races, it seems safe to assume he showed further improvement when winning a Group One race there subsequently."

Wright reckons the 1,000 Guineas is far less clear cut. He says: "The best figures in the race come from last year's Lowther Stakes in which Embury recorded a 110 and Cape Verdi a 107. However, these figures are way below Classic standard and, with neither the Fred Darling Stakes nor the Nell

Gwyn throwing up useful figures, the 1,000 Guineas is wide open from a time perspective.

"That being the case, although we don't rate French races, my view is that Loving Claim could run well. Although bred to want beyond a mile she is an unexposed contender."

Punters are searching for alternatives to Xaar in the 2,000 and Lend A Hand and Central Park, along with Haami and Border Arrow were the best backed horses yesterday, the latter contracting to 10-1 from 25-1

with Coral. "The public clearly think Xaar is beatable," Simon Clare, of Coral, said, "and we are seeing money for most of the

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Scobie Girl  
(Plumpton 3.50)  
NB: August Twelfth  
(Plumpton 2.45)

principals to beat the favourite." Friday's Newmarket card will now include the Sagaro Stakes, transferred from today's abandoned Ascot meeting.

## McCoy's Song too powerful for Ballerina

TONY MCCOY recorded a double at the Pumphinstown Festival yesterday on His Song and Midday Time. On ground turned heavy by a continuous

## McCoy ended up on the deck when Edredon Bleu fell in the BMW Handicap Chase.

With Klairon Davis also crashing, Big Matt took the prize.

## McCloy defends BHB against criticism of top trainers

MATTHEW MCCLOY yesterday defended the BHB against criticism of its process of electing a new chairman. The board's industry committee chairman

## yet another public relations disaster for British racing?

Luca Cumani, John Gosden and Michael Stoute claimed in a letter to the press yesterday that the "unsatisfactory" election process has the makings of

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# Aston convinced that Sheffield can go the Full Monty

SPEND long enough in the company of Mark Aston and you almost begin to believe that Sheffield Eagles can do the unthinkable on Saturday and become the unlikely of Challenge Cup winners.

Given the "Full Monty" connection, it was inevitable the Sheffield scrum-half and his team-mates would be obliged to get their kit off in the interests of promoting what many already regard as a non-contest. The results will be seen in various newspapers this week: most seeing them will expect the Eagles' playing limitations to be exposed equally starkly at Wembley.

But the Eagles are not like some teams I have seen in the build-up to Wembley - teams which smell of defeat in advance

and really only turn up to complete the numbers. If they are no-hopers, then no one has told Aston - at least not in terms that convince him.

"People wouldn't say that about us if they realised what we have come from," says the 30-year-old Aston, who joined the club in 1986 and, apart from a brief interlude at Featherstone, has been there ever since.

"I remember playing in front of two or three hundred people at Owlerton, with characters like Billy Harris who looked after me like a son.

"We used to look around that empty greyhound stadium in the pouring rain and think that perhaps we never would make a go of it in Sheffield."

Aston was one of the earliest examples of the talent spot-

Saturday's rugby league Challenge Cup final may allow the Eagles scrum-half to prove the doubters wrong, he tells Dave Hadfield

ting flair of Gary Hetherington, the man who built the Eagles. Although he has moved to a bigger stage, as chief executive of Leeds, the long-serving players at Sheffield, like Aston and his captain, Paul Broadbent, will spare a thought for their old mentor as they walk out at Wembley.

"He'll have a lump in his throat when he sees us go out there," he says. "He'll be out there on the pitch with us, in one sense. This club was his baby; he took it through to a teenager and then he let it run wild."

Like Hetherington, there was a time when Aston felt compelled to fly the nest. A sojourn

at Featherstone hardly smacks of bright lights, big city, but Rovers were in an expansive mood at the time and promised Aston riches he could not get at the famously tightly-run Eagles.

"I went for the wrong reasons - for more money and to try to secure my future - but I was never happy there. People think the grass is always greener, but I've been there and it's not."

Typically, the shrewd Hetherington brought him back for a fraction of the fee that had taken him away.

"When I had a chance to come back, I didn't hesitate.

You have to be happy in your environment and I'm lucky that I've always had a good rapport with the spectators at Sheffield."

With both of them, a cynic might say, because the Eagles, for all the good work they have done, will still struggle to sell more than 6,000 tickets for Wembley - and few will feel, in their hearts, that their side will send them back up the M1 in high spirits.

But Aston genuinely believes that there is a way in which everyone can be proved wrong. Most players shy away from depicting a major final as a man-to-man confrontation,

but that is the way in which he sees his team winning it.

"The way we are approaching it is that each player has an individual battle against his opposite number. If we win enough of those individual battles, we win the match."

"If we look after the small picture, the big picture will look after itself."

That puts the emphasis on Aston's contest with the Wigan scrum-half, Tony Smith, a fellow-Castlefordian and a player he regards as the best in the British game in his position at the moment.

"He has done remarkably well to take over from Shaun Edwards, who was worshipped at Wigan."

"But I'm going to get right into his face and I'm going to

tell him that I'll be in his face the whole match."

"We're going to smash into them in the first 20 minutes to such an extent that we plant a seed of doubt. We want them to look at us and think 'This lot really want this. Are we prepared to put our bodies on the line in the same way?'"

Aston's kicking game will also be crucial, so much of Sheffield's plan revolving around it.

"There are a lot of wrong places to kick. You don't want to give Jason Robinson the ball, because he will hurt you."

"Wigan are probably the best-balanced side in the world. Robinson is the best winger. Gary Connolly the best centre, and Kris Radlinski is as good as any full-back in this country."



Aston: Last chance of success

"But we are going to go out there with such aggression. We are going to go into every tackle wanting to hurt them."

"A lot of people are writing us off, but Wigan know we can beat them - like we did at our place last season. And for someone like me, this match means everything. Being realistic, I might never get another chance, so this day has to be the day."

## Benson and Hedges Cup: Durham take advantage as Butcher bolsters Surrey and Worcestershire struggle

# Too many errors by Derbyshire

By Mike Carey  
at Derby

Durham 185-6  
Derbyshire 179-6  
Durham won by six runs

NOTHING went quite according to plan here yesterday, which is never really a surprise at this stage of the season. The last of the day's errors, the running out of Derbyshire's Vince Clarke, removed their slight hopes of victory and Durham got home by six runs, a triumph which will do them the power of good.

It was not as exciting as it may sound. The game was reduced to a 30-over affair after heavy overnight rain had soaked part of the square, necessitating the use of matting to cover all pitches, and David Boon's decision to bat first suggested he was happy to get runs safely on the board in these conditions.

In the event, the pitch was one of those slow, two-paced affairs on which timing is not straightforward, and Clarke's sheer physical strength looked capable of seeing his side home after a series of early mishaps.

Durham probably bowled straighter in the all-important, early phase of the innings than Derbyshire had managed: certainly they got on top after a misunderstanding between Tim Tewats and Kim Barnett had resulted in both batsmen finishing at the same end.

Tewats had to go. Barnett was subdued for a while, but with Clarke punching the ball away confidently on both sides of the wicket, they pulled things

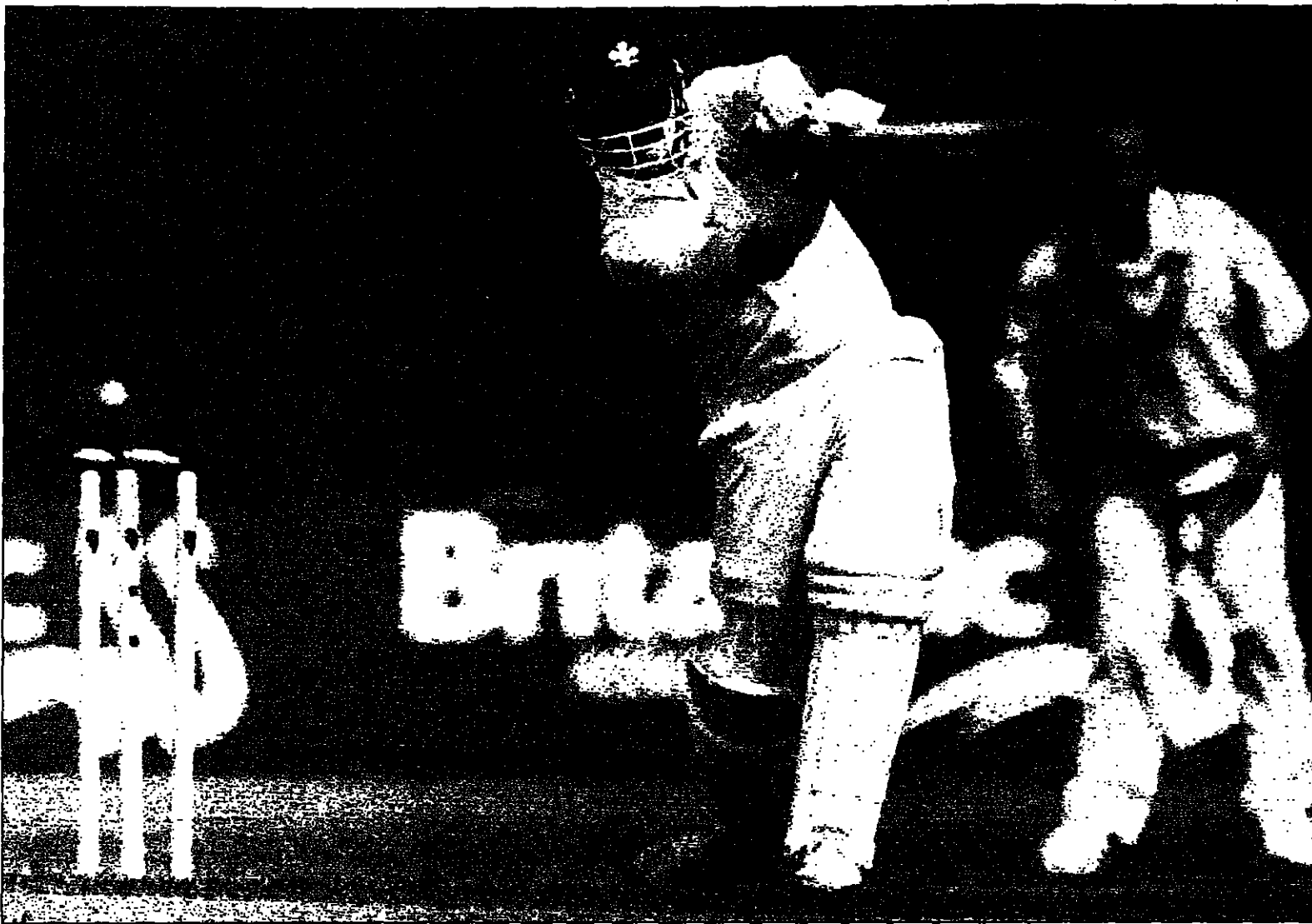
round to a point where 45 were needed from five overs, whereupon Barnett missed a straight full toss from Melvyn Betts as he tried to run it to third man.

Clarke shouldered the burden of keeping things moving but, with 17 required from two overs, he paid the price for hesitating over a second run from Phil DeFreitas' stroke to square-leg and, after several changes of mind, was comfortably run out.

After that, Betts and John Wood howled very straight, aiming for the block hole as often as possible, so there was never any likelihood of a late miracle, enabling Durham to complete a win that owed much to Paul Collingwood's unbeaten 30 from 18 balls.

The admirable Collingwood arrived after his side had also missed their way in mid-innings. His crucial piece of controlled aggression, again helped by no mean physical power, gave his side something to defend after a slump that had owed much to one batsman after another contributing to get out after making a start.

Wasim Akram, the former Pakistan captain, yesterday urged England's selectors to build for the future when they name Michael Atherton's successor as captain. "I don't think they should be looking to appoint a stop-gap captain," Wasim, who will lead Lancashire in today's Benson and Hedges Cup tie with Warwickshire at Old Trafford, said. "They should be looking towards Nasser Hussain or Mark Ramprakash."



Bailing out: Alec Stewart is clean bowled by Dimitri Mascarenhas in yesterday's Benson & Hedges tie at Southampton

Photograph: Peter Jay

## Mascarenhas makes life hard for Hollioake

By David Llewellyn  
at Southampton

Surrey 267-8; Hampshire 219  
Surrey win by 48 runs

AT LEAST it was not the humiliating margin (165 runs) of last year's encounter in this competition, when Hampshire failed to get into three figures, but yesterday Surrey's strength still proved too much for Robin Smith and his trusty hand.

While the bowling lacked bite there was encouragement from Hampshire's own version

of the Ancient and Modern - Peter Hartley, 38, and Dimitri Mascarenhas, 20. This combo saw the home team slog from the same hymn sheet for a while, but it was their opponents who called the tune.

Hartley, who has come south after 13 seasons with Yorkshire, picked up 3 for 32, and the London-born, Australia-raised Mascarenhas, of Sri Lankan parentage, claimed four good wickets. He flared briefly with the bat as well, one straight shot off Ian Salisbury sailing into Northlands Road. But his

innings, like so many others in the Hampshire line-up, was ineffectual and short-lived.

Surrey's captain Adam Hollioake used his bowlers carefully, restricting the Hampshire batsmen from the start and only Smith (45) and Giles White (47), who put on 78 for the third wicket, provided the home fans with much to cheer, although Adrian Aymes and Simon Renshaw had a last-wicket stand of 42. White should have reached his half century, but a casual flick at what appeared a leg-side half volley at

the start of Martin Bicknell's second spell saw Ben Hollioake take a fine running catch coming round from mid-wicket to the square-leg boundary.

Bicknell did a deal of damage to the Hampshire innings, but his fine return of 4 for 38 was undone by Mascarenhas. In the youngster's opening over, his seamers accounted for Surrey's opening pair. Alistair Brown's breezy 43, which included eight cracking boundaries and the odd alarm, ended with a straightforward catch at mid-on. Four balls later Alec

Stewart, playing his first game for the county since returning from the Caribbean, was done by one which nipped back. But the pair had put on 69 for the first wicket.

Mascarenhas accounted for Ben Hollioake shortly after to finish with 4 for 28. Unfortunately for Hampshire, that dismissal brought the Gold award winner Mark Butcher in. The England left-hander's 67 off 97 balls, during which he added 95 for the fourth wicket with Graham Thorpe (48), saw Surrey clear of their bit of trouble.

## Hamilton outshines Yorkshire luminaries to bring cheer to Byas

By Jon Culley  
at Huddersfield

Worcestershire 128  
Yorkshire 119-5  
Yorkshire win by 5 wickets

YORKSHIRE maintained a buoyant start to the new season by launching their Benson and Hedges Cup campaign with a strong statement of intent, the

complexities of the Duckworth-Lewis method translating their 119 for 5 in 32.3 overs to a five-wicket victory over Worcestershire in a match subjected to several downpours.

David Byas is wary of false dawns but on the back of two wins in the Britannic Assurance Championship, in which his side have a healthy 14-point lead, yesterday's performance

will allow Yorkshire's captain to reflect with satisfaction on the story so far.

Darren Lehmann, with 31, and Craig White, who scored 27, provided essential momentum and Bradley Parker's streaky bottom-edged four supplied the winning runs - with 15 balls to spare - but the Gold Award went without argument to Gavin Hamilton, the young

Scottish-born seamer whose 4 for 33 included a run of three wickets in four deliveries.

Worcestershire's total was their smallest for a completed innings against Yorkshire in 11 B&H meetings and would have been embarrassing without the late recovery by David Leatherdale and Phil Newport.

Hamilton's extraordinary performance sparked a collapse

to 64 for 8 before Newport's entrance but the total had doubled by the time Yorkshire completed the job. The top-scorer, Newport's 42-ball stand yielded an unbeaten 28 after his partnership with Leatherdale, who scored 25, added 45 in 10 overs.

By contrast, Worcestershire's top order failed miserably as Yorkshire's strong seam attack ensured that Tom Moody re-

gretted his decision to bat first.

After Vikram Solanki had been caught in an ambitious attempt to pull Chris Silverwood, Graeme Hick edged Darren Gough low to slip, where Byas took the first of his three catches. Then Philip Weston's scramble to run two for a push behind square off Silverwood was beaten by Lehmann's accurate throw.

After the first and longest

weather break, lasting two hours, Gavin Haynes fell to a low catch at the wicket off Paul Hutchison and then Hamilton began a run of four wickets in 10 balls when he bowled Moody. In his next over, the 23-year-old delivered three examples of how to exploit a seaming pitch by having Stuart Lampitt, Steven Rhodes and then Richard Illingworth caught off the outside edge.

### Cricket scoreboard

#### Benson and Hedges Cup

One-day matches

#### Derbyshire v Durham

DERBY: Durham beat Derbyshire by 6 runs.

Durham won toss

DURHAM

J J Lewis b Cole 47

M J Foster b DeFreitas 9

J J Morris b DeFreitas 21

V J Barnett b Betts 38

N J Spear b Harris 19

N J Spear b Harris 19

P J DeFreitas not out 30

P J DeFreitas not out 30

Extras (b 10, lb 10, w 10, nb 10) 40

Total (for 6, 36 overs) 185

Fall: 1-25, 2-42, 3-122, 4-128, 5-140, 6-182

Did not bat: M M Batts, J Wood, S J Harrison

Bowling: DeFreitas 8-0-25-1; Cole 8-0-42-1; Harris 7-0-32-2; Foster 7-0-37-1; Betts 7-0-32-2; Barnett 1-0-7-0

#### Derbyshire v Worcestershire

YORKSHIRE: Yorkshire beat Worcestershire by 5 wickets on Duckworth-Lewis method.

Worcestershire won toss

Worcestershire

W P C Weston run out 12

V S Solanki c Renshaw b Silverwood 10

G A Hick c Byas b Gough 9

M J Moody b Hamilton 9

G M Haynes c Silverwood b Hutchison 4

D A Leatherdale b W b Gough 25

S R Lampitt c Byas b Hamilton 4

15 J Rhodes c Silverwood b Hamilton 2

R J Kingworth c Byas b Hamilton 0

P J Newport not out 28

A Shepherd b Hutchison 8

Extras (b 10, lb 10, w 10, nb 10) 40

Total (for 5, 32.3 overs) 119

Fall: 1-5, 2-17, 3-27, 4-90, 5-98

Did not bat: D Gough, C E W Silverwood, G M Harrison, P M Robinson

Bowling: Silverwood 8-0-15-1; Gough 8-1-32-2; Harrison 8-0-33-4; Hutchison 4-5-29-1; White 7-1-26-0

#### Hampshire v Surrey

SOUTHAMPTON: Surrey beat Hampshire by 48 runs.

Hampshire won toss

Hampshire

A D Brown c Smith b Mascarenhas 43

Y A Stewart c Aymes b Hartley 19

G P Hollioake c Aymes b Hartley 13

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M J Moody b Renshaw 48

M J Moody b Renshaw 48

A J Hollioake c McLaren b Mascarenhas 16

J D Radcliffe c Lacey b Mascarenhas 4

N Shand c Keen b Hartley 16

I D K Salisbury not out 16

M P Bicknell not out 16

Extras (b 17, w 10) 27

Total (for 8, 36 overs) 267

Fall: 1-17, 2-23, 3-32, 4-51, 5-58, 6-62, 7-64, 8-64, 9-103

Did not bat: J E Bennett

Bowling: Renshaw 10-0-69-1; McLaren 10-0-81-0; Hartley 10-0-32-3; Mascarenhas 10-0-28-4; Lacey 10-0-40-0

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#### Tennis

By John Roberts

#### WIMBLEDON will mark the 30th anniversary of open tennis by offering record prize money of £7.2m for this year's championships (which run from 22 June to 5 July), an increase of 4.7 per cent on last year.

The men's singles title, currently held by Pete Sampras, will be worth £435,000 (a rise of £20,000), and the women's singles championship, due to be defended by Martina Hingis, £391,500 (£18,000 more).

While the face of the All England Club has changed during the three decades since amateurs and professionals were first allowed to play together, it remains set against equal pay for women.

In 1968, when the total prize

## Still no parity as Wimbledon pays more

money amounted to £26,150, the Australian Rod Laver received £2,000 for the men's singles title and £750 for the women's singles title and £750 for the women's singles title.

"Why do people pay more in boxing for a heavyweight title fight than for a lightweight one?" asked John Curry, the Wimbledon chairman, after yesterday's prize money announcement. "We look at the situation every year, but we believe we are being fair. There is a greater demand for men's tennis and less depth in the women's game, even today with

the men play matches over the best of five sets and the women over the best of three."

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Venus Williams and Martina Hingis arriving. And this year there is no certainty that Monica Seles or Steffi Graf will play."

Wimbledon counters the argument that women's matches tend to be more attractive on the fast grass courts than the men's power game by revealing that a survey during last year's championship showed that 70 per cent of spectators preferred men's tennis. The survey also showed that 60 per cent of the visitors to Wimbledon were women.

Incidentally, first-round losers in the women's singles at the Wimbledon qualifying event at Roehampton will be paid £805 (Billie Jean eat your heart out) while the men who fall the first round there will receive £1,035 - 2965 short of Lave 1968 first prize.

### Grass and Cash: How Wimbledon's prize money has grown in the professional era

Year	1968	1978	1988	1998
Total	£26,150	£279,023	£2,811,000	£7,200,000
Men	£2,000	£16,000	£165,000	£435,000
Women	£750	£17,000	£148,500	£391,500
Winner	Billie Jean King	Martina Navratilova	Steffi Graf	







